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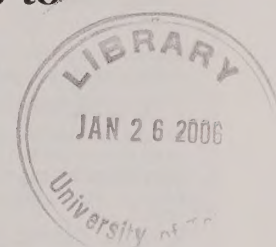
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Offences against the Administration of Justice, 1994/95 to 2003/04

by Jacques Taillon¹



Highlights

- The proportion of adults charged by police services² with at least one offence against the administration of justice increased from 17% of all accused persons charged in 1998 to 22% in 2004.
- The proportion of cases before adult criminal courts including an offence against the administration of justice increased from 22% in 1994/95 to 31% in 2003/04³ and from 30% to 40% for youth courts.
- During the last 10 years, the proportion of multiple-charge cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice increased from 27% in 1994/95 to 36% in 2003/04 for adult criminal courts, and from 42% in 1994/95 to 54% in 2003/04 for youth courts.
- In adult criminal courts in 2003/04, offences against the administration of justice were often associated with both property offences (39%) and offences against the person (32%) in multiple-charge cases grouped by most serious offence.
- One-half of single-charge cases involving offences against the administration of justice in adult criminal courts and in youth courts in 2003/04 resulted in conviction. For the offences of 'unlawfully at large' and 'breach of a probation order', the conviction rates in adult criminal courts were 72% and 62% respectively. In youth courts, the majority of "unlawfully at large" cases (83%) resulted in findings of guilt in 2003/04.
- In 2003/04, incarceration was the type of sentence that was most often given by adult criminal courts in single-charge cases with convictions involving an offence against the administration of justice; it was imposed in nearly half (49%) of these cases. Being unlawfully at large led to an additional custodial sentence in 85% of guilty cases.

1. Chief, Policy, Planning and Evaluation.

2. Only 69 police services representing 45% of offences in Canada in 2004 continuously provided information to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey from 1998 to 2004.

3. Only eight provinces and territories in Canada sent their data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey from 1994/95 to 2003/04.



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Introduction

Offences against the administration of justice are primarily located in Part IV of the *Criminal Code* (R.S.C. 1985, Ch. C-46) and includes sections on corruption and disobedience, misleading justice, and escapes and rescues. Other *Criminal Code* offences concerning, for example, failure to comply with a probation order or a breach of order of long-term supervision are also included in offences against the administration of justice. The *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) also contain provisions such as the failure to comply with a disposition or the assistance to a young person to leave unlawfully a place of custody.

Offences against the administration of justice can considerably encumber the Canadian justice system by causing individuals to reappear before the courts for reasons unrelated to new criminal activities. These offences therefore represent an additional cost not only in dollars, but also in terms of the efficiency of the justice system. When a greater number of cases must be heard or the complexity of the cases increases because of the addition of these offences, the response of the justice system, especially with respect to the disposition of criminal cases, will be slowed accordingly.

Though the conviction rates⁴ for offences against the administration of justice cases before adult criminal courts and for offences overall are similar, the incarceration rate⁵ for offences against the administration of justice is much higher. The higher incarceration rate reflects the nature of offences against the administration of justice, as these offences most often have as a prerequisite previous contacts with the court. The risk of a prison sentence increases where there has been a failure to comply with a previous court order. On the other hand, prison sentences for offences against the administration of justice are usually shorter in comparison with offences overall.

This *Juristat* highlights the increasing frequency of offences against the administration of justice in the Canadian justice system over the past 10 years. It focuses on persons arrested by police services for offences against the administration of justice, and the disposition and sentencing of these cases in adult criminal courts and youth courts.

Text box: Offences against the administration of justice

In this *Juristat*, offences against the administration of justice include failure to appear, breach of a probation order, unlawfully at large, failure to comply with an order, and other offences against the administration of justice. Also, offences against the YOA and the YCJA⁶ are essentially offences against the administration of justice.⁷

Failure to comply with a court order includes offences related to the accused failing to follow the conditions of a recognizance prior to conviction, C.C. section 145 (3, 4, 5, and 5.1). Breach of probation order, which includes *Criminal Code* charges under section 733.1, is rarely used against young offenders. The vast majority of the offences against the administration of justice involving young offenders are for failing to comply with the dispositions imposed by youth courts following conviction (e.g., YOA section 26, and YCJA section 137).

It is not necessary to have already entered the justice system to be charged with an offence against the administration of justice. For example, a person who falsely claims to be a peace officer or who tries to influence a municipal official would be charged with an offence against the administration of justice. The latter offences fall under "Other offences against the administration of justice."

4. The conviction rate is the proportion of cases with a finding of guilt.
5. The incarceration rate is the proportion of convicted cases where prison was used as a sanction.
6. The YCJA replaced the YOA on April 1, 2003. Young persons who came into contact with the justice system before April 1, 2003 are subject to the YOA.
7. Refer to Appendix 1 for a complete list of the offences against the administration of justice.

Contact with police

Police services regularly report offences against the administration of justice arising from an incident which brought a person into contact with the police. When a check is performed on a person, the police may discover that this person is in breach of a condition of his or her probation, or is unlawfully at large, and that a warrant has been issued for his or her arrest.

Offences against the administration of justice represent an increasing proportion among adults charged with an offence

The proportion of persons charged with at least one offence against the administration of justice has risen in recent years, from 17% of all adults charged in 1998 to 22% in 2004.⁸ Most of the increase occurred in 2001 and 2002. For young persons aged 12 to 17, this proportion remained stable at around 15%. For adults, the charge leading to the increase was failure to comply with an order, which went from 8% of all accused adults in 1998 to 11% in 2004 (Table 1). Similarly, failure to comply with an order grew from 5% of all accused young persons in 1998 to 7% in 2004 (Table 2).

Charges for offences against the administration of justice are often laid along with obstruction of justice, weapon possession, possession of stolen goods and drug offences

In 2004, 73% of incidents including at least one offence against the administration of justice were single-charge incidents (i.e., the offence against the administration of justice was the only offence). Thus, even though approximately 1 in 5 accused had committed at least one offence against the administration of justice, more often than not these persons were involved in single-charge incidents rather than multiple-charge incidents.

Some types of offences⁹ are found to be more closely associated with offences against the administration of justice. Among incidents involving at least one offence against the person from 1998 to 2004, 8% to 12% of assault of a public/peace officer incidents and 10% to 20% of other assault incidents included at least one offence against the administration of justice. Offences against the administration of justice were also associated with 4% in 1998 to 6% in 2004 of incidents involving assault with weapon or causing bodily harm, 5% to 6% of incidents involving uttering threats, 3% to 5% of incidents involving criminal harassment, 3% to 5% of incidents involving assault—level 1 and 1% to 4% of incidents involving robbery.

Among incidents involving at least one property offence, from 8% in 1998 to 13% in 2004 of possession of stolen goods incidents included at least one offence against the administration of justice. This was the case for 2% of fraud incidents during this same period.

The proportion of incidents with an obstruction of a public/peace officer that included at least one offence against the administration of justice increased from 13% in 1998 to 24% in 2004. Cocaine possession (from 5% to 14%), weapons possession (from 7% to 14%), trespass at night (from 7% to 11%), cocaine trafficking (from 5% to 10%), cannabis

possession (from 4% to 7%), cannabis trafficking (from 2% to 6%), and disturbing the peace (from 6% to 7%) incidents also involved at least one offence against the administration of justice.

More than one out of five adults charged also had at least one charge of an offence against the administration of justice

In 2004¹⁰, about one in five persons (19%) charged had committed at least one offence against the administration of justice.

A larger proportion of accused adults (21%) were charged with an offence against the administration of justice, compared to youths (14%). Among accused men and women, a similar proportion of men (21%) and women (19%) were charged with an offence against the administration of justice.

Courts

In recent years, the proportion of court cases involving offences against the administration of justice has grown¹¹

Over the past decade, offences against the administration of justice started to account for a much larger share of the workload in criminal courts. Of the total number of cases¹² before adult criminal courts in eight provinces and territories,¹³ the proportion of cases including at least one offence against the administration of justice increased from 22% in 1994/95 to 31% in 2003/04. Growth in the number of cases involving failure to comply with an order and breach of a probation order explain much of this increased workload (Table 3).

8. Only 69 police services representing 45% of police coverage in Canada in 2004 continuously provided information to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey from 1998 to 2004.
9. Only offences for which there were at least 1,000 incidents reported to the police in 2004 from the 69 police services are presented.
10. In 2004, 120 police services in 8 provinces supplied data for the complete year to the UCR2 survey. These data represent 58% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) *Criminal Code* crimes. The aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey does not separately identify all offences against the administration of justice. Only the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR2) lends itself to an analysis of these types of offences. Only persons for whom the age and the sex are known are included in the total number of persons charged. For more information on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, see Julie Sauvé. 2005. "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE. Vol. 25 no. 5.
11. The results on adult criminal courts and youth courts will be presented together (but not aggregated) under the different headings. For more information on these two surveys, see Mikhail Thomas. 2004. "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2003/04." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE. Vol. 24 no. 12 and Jennifer Thomas. 2005. "Youth Court Statistics, 2003/04." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE. Vol. 25 no. 4.
12. The case is defined as one or more charges against an individual disposed of in court on the same day. In 2003/04, the percentage of charges in adult criminal courts relating to an offence against the administration of justice was 21% of the total number of charges. This was similar to the 22% reported by 69 police services in 2004.
13. Only eight provinces and territories in Canada sent their data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey from 1994/95 to 2003/04: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon.

Seven of eight provinces and territories for which data are available (Quebec¹⁴ was the exception) experienced increases in the proportion of cases in which there was at least one offence against the administration of justice over the past ten years. The proportion of cases including at least one offence against the administration of justice for these seven provinces and territories climbed from a range of 10% to 33% in 1994/95 to a range of 21% to 43% in 2003/04. In Quebec, this proportion stood at 23% in 1994/95 and 2003/04, and fluctuated between these years.

The proportion of youth court cases¹⁵ including at least one offence against the administration of justice has steadily increased over the decade, from 30% in 1994/95 to 40% in 2003/04. As was the case with adult criminal courts, failure to comply with an order partly explains this increase. However, offences under the YOA and the YCJA have also contributed to the increase (Table 4).

Between 1994/95 and 2003/04, the most rapid increases in the proportion of youth court cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice were reported in Nova Scotia (increasing from 24% to 43%), Manitoba (from 34% to 53%) and British Columbia (from 26% to 39%). In 2003/04, Alberta returned to the 1994/95 level of 35%, having reached a peak of 46% in 2002/03. All other provinces and territories showed an increase in the proportion of these cases over the last 10 years.

Demographic characteristics of persons appearing in court on an offence against the administration of justice charge

From 1994/95 to 2003/04, approximately 86% of all cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice heard by adult criminal courts involved a male accused.¹⁶

In 2003/04, young adults aged 18 to 24 made up 12% of the adult population,¹⁷ but they accounted for 31% of all cases before adult criminal courts.¹⁸ For cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice, this proportion is 37%.

In 2003/04, 39% of youth aged 12 to 15 and 41% of those aged 16 and 17 who appeared before a youth court did so for cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice. In adult criminal courts in 2003/04, the corresponding proportion steadily declined from 37% for young adults aged 18 to 24 to 15% for adults aged 55 and over.

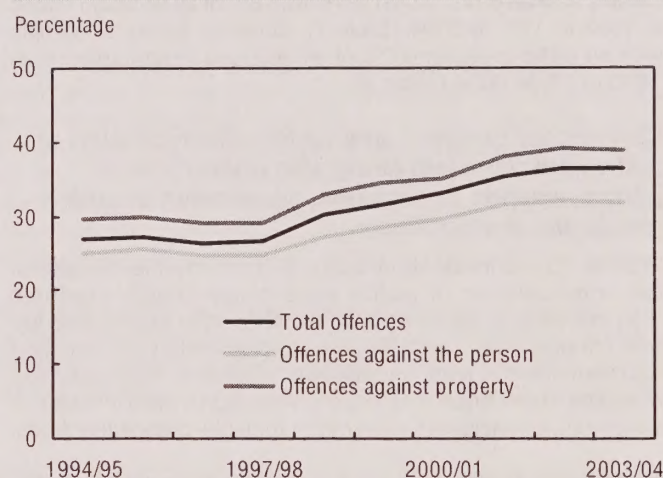
Among each age group, the proportion of cases with at least one offence against the administration of justice is generally lower for women than men. The difference is greatest for 18 to 24 year olds, where the proportion of cases with at least one offence against the administration of justice is higher for men (38%) than women (32%) of that age. On the other hand, the proportion is higher for female youth aged 12 to 15 (42%) than it is for male youth in the same age group (38%).

Offences against the administration of justice are contributing to the increasing complexity of cases

In recent years, the justice system has had to deal with increasingly complex cases¹⁹. In 2003/04, the proportion of multiple-charge cases before adult criminal courts passed the 50% mark for the first time in 10 years. This can be explained in part by the growing number of multiple-charge cases with at least one offence against the administration of justice. In 1994/95, only 27% of multiple-charge cases included an offence against the administration of justice. This proportion rose to 36% in 2003/04. Most of this increase occurred from 1998/99 to 2001/02.

Figure 1

Proportion of multiple charge cases¹ with at least one offence against the administration of justice, adult criminal courts², 1994/95 to 2003/04



1. According to the most serious offence.
2. Only eight provinces and territories in Canada sent their data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey from 1994/95 to 2003/04: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

14. Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately one quarter of *Criminal Code* charges in that province) is not yet collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey.
15. Youth court caseloads reflect police charging practices. That is, the composition and distribution of offences heard and completed in youth court are largely determined by the incidents that come to the attention of the police and result in formal charges. However, due to post-charge extrajudicial/alternative measures programs and pre-court diversion programs, some young persons are diverted away from further exposure in the criminal justice system. The YCJA encourages the use of extrajudicial measures whereby they "should be used if they are adequate to hold a young person accountable for his or her offending behaviour and, if the use of extrajudicial measures is consistent with the principles set out in" paragraphs 4 (a) to (d) of the Act. The total number of cases and the number of cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice in youth courts decreased in 2003/04.
16. In calculating the breakdown between male and female accused, cases in which the sex of the accused was unknown (less than 2% of cases) or was a business (less than 1%) were removed.
17. Age represents the age of the offender, rounded to the nearest year, in the year the offence is alleged to have been committed.
18. Population estimates as of July 2003 for provinces and territories participating in the Adult Criminal Court Survey.
19. Multiple-charge cases are usually more complex to dispose than single-charge cases.

Similarly, in youth courts the proportion of multiple-charge cases with at least one offence against the administration of justice grew from 42% in 1994/95 to 53% in 2000/01, and has remained fairly stable at this level over the past four years.

Offences against the administration of justice were more often associated with property offences

In adult criminal courts, offences against the administration of justice were more often associated with property offences (from 30% in 1994/95 to 39% in 2003/04) than offences against the person (from 25% to 32%), in multiple-charge cases grouped by most serious offence.²⁰ With respect to multiple charge property cases in 2003/04, offences against the administration of justice were present in 51% of theft cases, 40% of break and enter cases and 35% of possession of stolen property cases. For crimes against the person, multiple-charge cases of common assault (39%), criminal harassment (39%) and major assault (31%) were the most likely to involve at least one offence against the administration of justice.

As with adult criminal courts, youth courts registered a larger proportion of multiple-charge cases with at least one offence against the administration of justice where the most serious offence was a property offence (from 36% in 1994/95 to 45% in 2003/04) than for an offence against the person (from 32% to 40%). More than half of multiple-charge cases in which the most serious offence was common assault (50%) or theft (53%) included at least one offence against the administration of justice in 2003/04.

Court cases require more time and a greater number of appearances to process²¹

The average time required by adult criminal courts to process single-charge cases has increased substantially over the past 10 years. For offences against the administration of justice, it climbed from 110 days in 1994/95 to 163 days in 2003/04 (48% increase). The average length of single-charge cases for offences overall was 121 days in 1994/95 and 215 days in 2003/04 (77% increase) (Table 5).

From 1994/95 to 2003/04, the proportion of single-charge cases before adult criminal courts that required at least five appearances to process increased for both offences against the administration of justice (from 30% to 39%) and offences overall (from 30% to 46%).

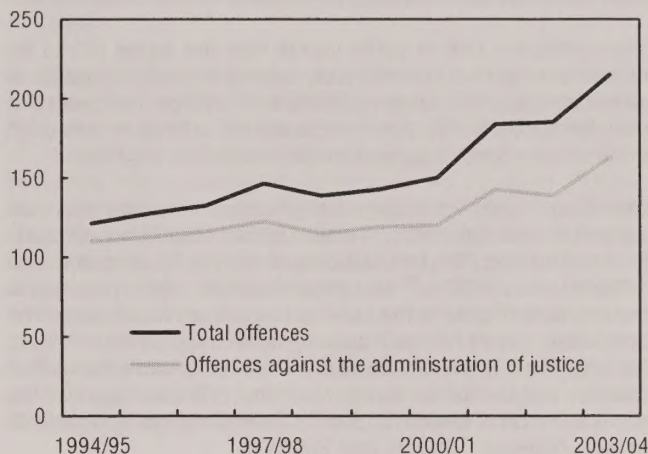
Over the past 10 years, the proportion of cases involving offences against the administration of justice that require more than eight months to complete has increased

The proportion of single-charge cases involving offences against the administration of justice that took adult criminal courts more than eight months to complete jumped from 12% of all cases in 1994/95 to 18% in 2003/04, while for offences overall, the corresponding proportions showed a more rapid increase from 13% to 27%. Between 1994/95 and 2003/04, the proportion of cases in which there was a single charge that took more than eight months to process doubled from 9% to 18% for failure to appear, and increased from 10% to 16% for failure to comply with an order and from 18% to 22% for breach of probation.

Figure 2

Average number of days required by adult criminal courts¹ to process single-charge cases, 1994/95 to 2003/04

Number of days



1. Only eight provinces and territories in Canada sent their data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey from 1994/95 to 2003/04: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

From 1994/95 to 2003/04, the proportion of cases including offences against the administration of justice that were dealt with the same day ranged between 23% and 27%. Nearly three quarters (71%) of single-charge cases involving an offence against the administration of justice were dealt with within four months or less in 1994/95, compared with 67% in 2003/04. On the other hand, for offences overall, there was a much greater decline in the proportion of cases requiring four months or less to be completed. That proportion dropped from 66% in 1994/95 to 54% in 2003/04.

The decrease in the proportion of single-charge cases involving offences against the administration of justice that were processed in four months or less varied by jurisdiction. In Newfoundland and Labrador the proportion dropped from 86% in 1994/95 to 70% in 2003/04, while the corresponding figures for Nova Scotia were 66% and 55%.

20. Most serious offence and decision rules - When a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case (since a case is identified by a single charge). In such multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to the least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) acquitted, 4) stay of proceeding, 5) withdrawn, dismissed and discharged, 6) not criminally responsible, 7) other, and 8) transfer of court jurisdiction. In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to an offence seriousness scale, which is based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on guilty charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01. If two charges are tied according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., prison, probation, and fine) is considered. If a tie still exists, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

21. To ensure that the verdict reflects the offence against the administration of justice as much as possible and was not overly influenced by another offence committed at the same time, only cases with a single charge or a single finding of guilt will be used for the rest of this court section.

The conviction rate for cases including offences against the administration of justice remains stable

For adult criminal courts in eight provinces and territories, the conviction rate²² for single-charge cases involving offences against the administration of justice ranged between 51% and 54% in the past 10 years, while for offences overall, the conviction rate fell from 55% in 1994/95 to 47% in 2003/04.

The conviction rate in youth courts was the same (55%) for offences overall and for offences against the administration of justice in 1994/95. Between 1994/95 and 2003/04, the conviction rate decreased to 43% for offences overall, but has remained at one-half for offences against the administration of justice.

Conviction rates for single-charge cases involving offences against the administration of justice before adult criminal courts hovered around 73% for Quebec and 48% for Ontario between 1994/95 and 2003/04.²³ However, decreases were reported in the conviction rates of the other provinces and territories. The conviction rate of Prince Edward Island dropped from 70% to 39% during this period. Similarly, Saskatchewan's conviction rate for single-charge cases involving offences against the administration of justice dropped substantially, going from 62% to 39% between 1994/95 and 2003/04.

The conviction rate for single-charge youth court cases involving offences against the administration of justice fell between 1994/95 and 2003/04 in most provinces and territories, with the exception of Manitoba (which increased from 34% to 45%), British Columbia (from 54% to 63%) and Quebec (from 67% to 70%). The largest decreases took place in Newfoundland and Labrador (from 72% to 41%), Prince Edward Island (from 75% to 56%) and New Brunswick (from 80% to 69%). In the case of New Brunswick, the entire decline occurred between 2002/03 and 2003/04.

The conviction rate varies considerably from one type of offence against the administration of justice to another. Thus, the rates for single-charge cases before adult criminal courts for the offences "unlawfully at large" and "breach of a probation order" were 72% and 62% respectively in 2003/04.²⁴ On the other hand, for failure to comply with an order and failure to appear, the conviction rates were 48% and 37% respectively. For youth courts, the offence "unlawfully at large" had a very high conviction rate of 83% in 2003/04.

For offences against the administration of justice, the proportion of cases with convictions that result in prison remains stable

Over the 10 year period from 1994/95 to 2003/04, the incarceration rate²⁵ for offences against the administration of justice was much higher than the overall rate in adult criminal courts. The proportion of single-charge cases with a conviction for an offence against the administration of justice that resulted in incarceration remained stable at around 50%. The incarceration rate for offences overall increased slightly from 27% in 1994/95 to 30% in 2003/04 (Table 6). Only homicide (85%), robbery (61%) and attempted murder (50%) had higher incarceration rates in 2003/04. The high incarceration rate reflects the nature of offences against the administration of justice, as these offences most often have as a prerequisite previous contacts with the court. The risk of a prison sentence

increases where there has been a failure to comply with a previous court order. This is especially the case for inmates unlawfully at large, 84% of whom received a prison sentence in 2003/04.

In youth courts, the proportion of single-charge cases with a conviction for an offence against the administration of justice that resulted in custody declined from 45% in 1994/95 to 38% in 2002/03.²⁶ For offences overall, the corresponding proportion ranged between 21% in 1994/95 and 18% in 2002/03 (Table 7).

In youth courts, the largest changes in the incarceration rate between 1994/95 and 2002/03 for single-charge cases with a conviction for an offence against the administration of justice occurred in the Yukon (increasing from 43% to 92%), Manitoba (from 20% to 35%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (from 67% to 44%).

More than four in five prison sentences for offences against the administration of justice are one month or less

For single conviction cases²⁷ involving an offence against the administration of justice that resulted in a prison sentence in adult criminal courts, the sentence length was one month or less in 84% of cases in 2002/03 and 2003/04, an increase from the 79% recorded in 1994/95. For offences overall, the proportion hovered around 61% since 1994/95 and then rose to 65% in 2002/03 and 67% in 2003/04. In Alberta, the proportion of prison sentences that were one month or less for cases involving a single conviction for an offence against the administration of justice increased from 78% in 1994/95 to 93% in 2003/04.

22. See footnote 4.

23. There are several possible factors that influence variations in the percentage of guilty cases. First, some jurisdictions use diversion programs and alternative measures to a greater extent, which affects the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Secondly, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country, and this will have an impact on the percentage of cases in which a finding of guilt is recorded. For example, 44% of cases were stayed or withdrawn in Ontario, whereas 11% were terminated this way in Quebec. Thirdly, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in Quebec, New Brunswick and British Columbia, may also affect the percentage of guilty findings through increased vetting of charges. Fourthly, the percentage of guilty cases recorded is slightly lower in jurisdictions not providing superior court data. In these jurisdictions (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan) the final provincial court decision is committed for trial for those cases that proceed to superior court and do not return to provincial court (approximately 2% of caseload). Fifthly, the mix of offences can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. If a particular jurisdiction has a higher than average percentage of the more serious crimes (for example, sexual assault), which tend to be more difficult to prosecute, it may have a lower percentage of guilty cases.

24. Ten provinces and territories in Canada sent their data to the Adult Criminal Court Survey in 2003/04: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon.

25. See footnote 5.

26. The Youth Court Program was unable to update this information for 2003/04 because of the introduction of the YCJA. Some jurisdictions provided their data to the Youth Court Survey (under the YOA), rather than the Integrated Criminal Courts Survey (under the YCJA). As part of the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS), data will be collected on the activities of the courts for all charges brought under federal laws, starting with the 2004/05 data collection.

27. Single conviction cases for an offence against the administration of justice can be the result of a multiple-charge case for which only the offence against the administration of justice received a conviction.

In youth courts, for cases with a single conviction for an offence against the administration of justice that resulted in a custodial sentence, the sentence length was one month or less in nearly 80% of cases since 1997/98.²⁸ As was the case for adult criminal courts, custodial sentences of one month or less in Alberta increased substantially, from 75% in 1994/95 to 92% in 2002/03 of all custodial sentences, for offences against the administration of justice.

The average length of custody in days declines both for offences against the administration of justice and offences in general

For the period from 1994/95 to 2003/04, the average length of custody for adult criminal court cases including a single offence against the administration of justice was much lower than the average length observed for offences overall. The average length of custody for offences against the administration of justice has declined steadily since 1998/99 (31 days), reaching 24 days in 2003/04. Offences in general show the same downward trend in the average length of custody (from 97 days in 1998/99 to 77 days in 2003/04).

The average length of custody for youth court cases with a single conviction for an offence against the administration of justice was also lower than that observed for offences overall for the entire period from 1994/95 to 2002/03.²⁹ The average length of custody fell from 35 days in 1994/95 to 26 days in 2002/03. Similarly, the average length of custody for offences overall dropped from 64 days in 1994/95 to 47 days in 2002/03.

Surveys

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR Survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Currently, there are two levels of detail collected through the UCR Survey.

Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The aggregate UCR Survey records the number of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute incidents reported to police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and youth not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. This *Juristat* is not based on aggregate survey counts because a breakdown is not available for all offences against the administration of justice.

For more detailed information on this survey, see Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-205-XIE, October 2004.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police services switch over from the aggregate to the incident-based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

In 2004, 120 police services in 8 provinces supplied data for the complete year to the UCR2 Survey. These data represent 58% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) *Criminal Code* offences. The incidents contained in the 2004 database were distributed as follows: 40.7% from Ontario, 32.1% from Quebec, 11.5% from Alberta, 7.6% from British Columbia, 4.8% from Saskatchewan, 1.8% from Nova Scotia, 0.9% from Newfoundland and Labrador and 0.6% from New Brunswick. Other than Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level. Continuity with the aggregate UCR Survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This database currently includes 69 police services who have reported to the UCR2 Survey consistently since 1998. These respondents accounted for 45% of the national volume of crime in 2004. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have provided at least five years of data to the UCR2 Survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database. The incidents contained in the 2004 Trend database were distributed as follows: 41.5% from Quebec, 30.1% from Ontario, 14.8% from Alberta, 6.6% from British Columbia, 6.2% from Saskatchewan and 0.8% from New Brunswick.

Adult Criminal Court Survey

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) provides a national database of statistical information on the processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statutes charges dealt with in adult criminal courts. The ACCS represents approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The basic unit of count for the Adult Criminal Court Survey is a case. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or corporation, where the charges receive a final disposition on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of the accused identifier and the date of the last court appearance.

28. See footnote 26.

29. See footnote 26.

The absence of data from all but six superior court jurisdictions (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon) may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences imposed across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. While these limitations are important, comparisons from one year to another are possible if the reporting jurisdictions used in the comparison are held constant.

The **ACCS Trend Data** is a subset of the ACCS database and contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of adult criminal court cases and charges. This data was submitted by eight jurisdictions since 1994/95 representing approximately 80% of the national adult criminal court caseload. The jurisdictions include Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon.

For more detailed information on this survey, refer to Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 24, No. 12, 2004.

Youth Court Survey

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences heard in youth court for

youths aged 12 to 17 (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. The primary unit of analysis used for the YCS is the case, defined as one or more charges against a young person disposed of on the same date. The YCS adopted the ACCS definition of a case during the 2001/02 reference year, in an effort to make the two surveys more consistent. Trend data presented in this *Juristat* are based on the new definition to ensure data comparability. Case counts are categorized by the most serious offence, most serious decision and most serious sentence. Consequently, less serious offences, decisions and sentences are under-represented.

Differences in data over time and across jurisdictions result from a number of factors that reflect how the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and the *Young Offenders Act* have been implemented, such as pre-court screening procedures, pre-charge screening by the Crown, and police or Crown diversion programs. Variations in procedures and eligibility requirements of these programs influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts.

For more detailed information on this survey, see Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 25, no. 4, 2004.

Appendix 1

Offences against the administration of justice in the *Criminal Code* and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*

Youth Criminal Justice Act - Sections 136 to 139 - Offences and Punishment

	<i>Criminal Code</i> C-46 Rsc 1985 (1)	Maximum penalty ¹	Description
Fail to appear	145(2ab) 145(2ab)	2 .5	Fail to attend court - pun - ind Fail to attend court - pun - sc
Breach of probation	161(4a) 161(4b) 733.1(1a) 733.1(1b) 753.3(1)	2 .5 2 18 M 10	Breach of probation order - pun - ind Breach of probation order - pun - sc Fail to comply probation order - pun - ind Fail to comply probation order - pun - sc Breach of long-term order
Unlawfully at large	144(ab) 145(1a) 145(1a) 145(1b) 145(1b)	10 2 .5 2 .5	Prison breach Escape custody - pun - ind Escape custody - pun - sc Escape custody before term expires - pun - ind Escape custody before term expires - pun - sc
Fail to comply with an order	145(3-5) 145(3-5) 810(3b) 810.01(4) 810.1(3.1) 810.2(4) 811(a) 811(b)	2 .5 1 1 1 1 2 .5	Fail to comply/appear, etc - pun - ind Fail to comply/appear, etc - pun - sc Fail/refuse recognizance - fear of Injury/damage Fail/refuse recognizance - fear of certain offences Fail/refuse recognizance - fear of sexual offence Fail/refuse recognizance - fear of serious injury Breach of recognizance under s.810 - pun - ind Breach of recognizance under s.810 - pun - sc
Other offences against the administration of justice	119(1ab) 120(ab) 121(1,2) 121(3) 122 123(1a-f) 123(2a-c) 124(ab) 125(a-c) 126(1) 127(1) 128(ab) 130(ab) 131(1) 132 134(1) 136(1) 137 138(a-c) 139(1ab) 139(1c) 139(1d) 139(2,3) 140(1a-d) 140(2a) 140(2b) 141(1) 142 143(a-d) 146(a-c) 147(a-c) 148(ab)	14 14 5 5 5 5 5 2 2 2 2 .5 14 .5 14 14 2 2 2 10 5 5 2 2 5 5 2 5 5 5	Accept/offer bribe - Judicial officer/Mp/Mla Accept/offer bribe - Justice/police commissioner/peace officer Selling/purchasing offices Frauds upon government - pun Breach of trust by public officer Corrupt municipal official Influence municipal official Selling/purchasing offices Deal/negotiate/solicit offices/appointments Disobeying a statute Disobeying order of court Misconduct of officer in executing process Personating a peace officer - pun - sc Perjury - def Perjury - general - pun False statement in affidavit, etc - pun - sc Giving contradictory evidence Fabricating evidence Offences relating to affidavits Obstruct justice - def Obstruct justice - pun - ind Obstruct justice - pun - sc Obstruct justice - other judicial proceeding Public mischief - def Public mischief to mislead peace officer - pun - ind Public mischief to mislead peace officer - pun - sc Compounding indictable offence Corruptly taking rewards Advertise reward and immunity Permit or assist escape Rescue or permit escape Assist prisoner of war to escape

Note:

1. Figures refer to years or fractions of a year unless otherwise specified
n.b. 25 = Life
.5 = 6 months
blank = not applicable (eg. definition)

Abbreviations

def Definition
ind Indictable conviction
mla Member of the legislative assembly
mp Member of parliament
pun Punishment
sc Summary conviction

Table 1

**Offences against the administration of justice as a proportion of total¹ charges laid
by selected police forces² in Canada, adults, 1998 to 2004**

18 and over

Offence group	2001			2002			2003			2004		
	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change ⁴
Total offences¹	311,294	100.0	1.6	313,082	100.0	0.6	310,530	100.0	-0.8	305,550	100.0	-1.6
Offences against the administration of justice	62,645	20.1	12.4	66,097	21.1	5.5	66,283	21.3	0.3	66,187	21.7	-0.1
<i>Criminal Code - Offences against the administration of justice</i>	62,226	20.0	12.6	65,568	20.9	5.4	65,837	21.2	0.4	65,648	21.5	-0.3
Fail to appear	10,322	3.3	15.7	11,358	3.6	10.0	11,492	3.7	1.2	12,789	4.2	11.3
Breach of probation	17,219	5.5	8.9	17,392	5.6	1.0	17,482	5.6	0.5	16,252	5.3	-7.0
Unlawfully at large	2,173	0.7	-4.4	2,211	0.7	1.7	2,033	0.7	-8.1	1,982	0.6	-2.5
Fail to comply with an order	30,772	9.9	16.3	32,753	10.5	6.4	33,153	10.7	1.2	33,139	10.8	-0.0
Other offences against the administration of justice	1,740	0.6	-3.8	1,854	0.6	6.6	1,677	0.5	-9.5	1,486	0.5	-11.4
YOAYCJA ³	419	0.1	-7.5	529	0.2	26.3	446	0.1	-15.7	539	0.2	20.9
	1998			1999			2000					
	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change
Total offences¹	298,112	100.0	...	303,637	100.0	1.9	306,291	100.0	0.9			
Offences against the administration of justice	51,461	17.3	...	54,908	18.1	6.7	55,721	18.2	1.5			
<i>Criminal Code - Offences against the administration of justice</i>	51,020	17.1	...	54,443	17.9	6.7	55,268	18.0	1.5			
Fail to appear	9,275	3.1	...	9,929	3.3	7.1	8,918	2.9	-10.2			
Breach of probation	13,885	4.7	...	14,929	4.9	7.5	15,816	5.2	5.9			
Unlawfully at large	2,278	0.8	...	2,275	0.7	-0.1	2,274	0.7	-0.0			
Fail to comply with an order	23,950	8.0	...	25,659	8.5	7.1	26,452	8.6	3.1			
Other offences against the administration of justice	1,632	0.5	...	1,651	0.5	1.2	1,808	0.6	9.5			
YOAYCJA ³	441	0.1	...	465	0.2	5.4	453	0.1	-2.6			

... not applicable

Notes:

- Excluding traffic offences.
- These trend data are based on 69 police forces which consistently provided their data to the UCR2 program from 1998 to 2004 and which accounted for 45% of all offences in Canada in 2004. These data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level.
- The YOA is the *Young Offenders Act* and the YCJA is the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- Percentage change from previous year.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 2

**Offences against the administration of justice as a proportion of total¹ charges laid
by selected police forces² in Canada, youth, 1998 to 2004**

12 to 17

Offence group	2001			2002			2003			2004		
	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change ⁴
Total offences¹	85,751	100.0	0.8	81,622	100.0	-4.8	83,146	100.0	1.9	74,459	100.0	-10.4
Offences against the administration of justice	13,418	15.6	13.0	12,853	15.7	-4.2	12,308	14.8	-4.2	10,913	14.7	-11.3
<i>Criminal Code</i> - Offences against the administration of justice	10,804	12.6	15.8	10,218	12.5	-5.4	9,709	11.7	-5.0	8,214	11.0	-15.4
Fail to appear	1,647	1.9	19.6	1,486	1.8	-9.8	1,612	1.9	8.5	1,510	2.0	-6.3
Breach of probation	2,237	2.6	1.9	2,092	2.6	-6.5	1,523	1.8	-27.2	990	1.3	-35.0
Unlawfully at large	872	1.0	8.2	763	0.9	-12.5	685	0.8	-10.2	479	0.6	-30.1
Fail to comply with an order	5,660	6.6	22.8	5,565	6.8	-1.7	5,567	6.7	0.0	4,951	6.6	-11.1
Other offences against the administration of justice	388	0.5	12.5	312	0.4	-19.6	322	0.4	3.2	284	0.4	-11.8
YOA/YCJA ³	2,614	3.0	2.8	2,635	3.2	0.8	2,599	3.1	-1.4	2,699	3.6	3.8
<hr/>												
	1998			1999			2000					
	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change	#	%	% Change
Total offences¹	87,127	100.0	...	82,493	100.0	-5.3	85,033	100.0	3.1			
Offences against the administration of justice	12,225	14.0	...	12,059	14.6	-1.4	11,876	14.0	-1.5			
<i>Criminal Code</i> - Offences against the administration of justice	9,740	11.2	...	9,411	11.4	-3.4	9,332	11.0	-0.8			
Fail to appear	1,633	1.9	...	1,498	1.8	-8.3	1,377	1.6	-8.1			
Breach of probation	1,927	2.2	...	1,988	2.4	3.2	2,196	2.6	10.5			
Unlawfully at large	1,079	1.2	...	902	1.1	-16.4	806	0.9	-10.6			
Fail to comply with an order	4,735	5.4	...	4,676	5.7	-1.2	4,608	5.4	-1.5			
Other offences against the administration of justice	366	0.4	...	347	0.4	-5.2	345	0.4	-0.6			
YOA/YCJA ³	2,485	2.9	...	2,648	3.2	6.6	2,544	3.0	-3.9			

... not applicable

Notes:

1. Excluding traffic offences.

2. These trend data are based on 69 police forces which consistently provided their data to the UCR2 program from 1998 to 2004 and which accounted for 45% of all offences in Canada in 2004. These data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level.

3. The YOA is the *Young Offenders Act* and the YCJA is the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

4. Percentage change from previous year.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 3

**Number of adult¹ criminal court cases involving at least one offence against the administration of justice,
eight Canadian provinces and territories², 1994/95 to 2003/04**

Offence group	1999/00			2000/01			2001/02			2002/03			2003/04		
	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change ⁵
Total offences³	368,893	100.0	-3.8	367,172	100.0	-0.5	381,502	100.0	3.9	396,701	100.0	4.0	380,439	100.0	-4.1
Offences against the administration of justice	96,701	26.2	1.0	101,575	27.7	5.0	109,939	28.8	8.2	115,040	29.0	4.6	116,613	30.7	1.4
<i>Criminal Code - Offences against the administration of justice</i>															
Fail to Appear	16,172	4.4	-4.3	15,479	4.2	-4.3	16,465	4.3	6.4	16,894	4.3	2.6	17,826	4.7	5.5
Breach of Probation	33,286	9.0	-20.6	36,138	9.8	8.6	39,341	10.3	8.9	41,947	10.6	6.6	43,340	11.4	3.3
Unlawfully at large	4,260	1.2	11.1	4,256	1.2	-0.1	3,944	1.0	-7.3	3,833	1.0	-2.8	3,812	1.0	-0.5
Fail to comply with an order	47,030	12.7	-20.6	49,902	13.6	6.1	56,270	14.7	12.8	59,268	14.9	5.3	60,269	15.8	1.7
Other offences against the administration of justice	3,997	1.1	-2.5	4,239	1.2	6.1	4,057	1.1	-4.3	4,100	1.0	1.1	4,156	1.1	1.4
YOA/YCJA ⁴	2,927	0.8	-19.3	3,160	0.9	8.0	3,356	0.9	6.2	3,629	0.9	8.1	2,278	0.6	-37.2
	1994/95			1995/96			1996/97			1997/98			1998/99		
	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change
Total offences³	436,928	100.0	...	422,062	100.0	-3.4	406,652	100.0	-3.7	396,833	100.0	-2.4	383,513	100.0	-3.4
Offences against the administration of justice	96,074	22.0	...	93,409	22.1	-2.8	89,611	22.0	-4.1	89,105	22.5	-0.6	95,777	25.0	7.5
<i>Criminal Code - Offences against the administration of justice</i>															
Fail to Appear	16,175	3.7	...	15,633	3.7	-3.4	15,485	3.8	-0.9	16,002	4.0	3.3	16,894	4.4	5.6
Breach of Probation	30,139	6.9	...	29,282	6.9	-2.8	26,068	6.4	-11.0	26,318	6.6	1.0	41,947	10.9	59.4
Unlawfully at large	5,676	1.3	...	5,365	1.3	-5.5	5,134	1.3	-4.3	4,649	1.2	-9.4	3,833	1.0	-17.6
Fail to comply with an order	44,846	10.3	...	44,039	10.4	-1.8	43,835	10.8	-0.5	43,391	10.9	-1.0	59,268	15.5	36.6
Other offences against the administration of justice	5,813	1.3	...	5,386	1.3	-7.3	4,980	1.2	-7.5	4,661	1.2	-6.4	4,100	1.1	-12.0
YOA/YCJA ⁴	2,042	0.5	...	2,211	0.5	8.3	2,349	0.6	6.2	2,511	0.6	6.9	3,629	0.9	44.5

... not applicable

Notes: Due to multiple charge cases with more than one offence against the administration of justice, percentages do not add up to the total.

1. Includes only adults and excludes businesses appearing before adult criminal courts.

2. The total for eight provinces and territories does not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Superior court data in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan are not reported. Superior court data were collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent about 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.

3. Total offences include the offences against the administration of justice.

4. The YOA is the *Young Offenders Act* and the YCJA is the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

5. Percentage change from previous year.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 4

**Number of youth court cases involving at least one offence
against the administration of justice, Canada, 1994/95 to 2003/04**

Offence group	1999/00			2000/01			2001/02			2002/03			2003/04		
	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change ³
Total offences¹	87,600	100.0	-5.7	87,617	100.0	0.0	85,640	100.0	-2.3	84,592	100.0	-1.2	70,465	100.0	-16.7
Offences against the administration of justice	33,000	37.7	-2.3	33,163	37.8	0.5	33,091	38.6	-0.2	33,206	39.3	0.3	28,387	40.3	-14.5
<i>Criminal code - Offences against the administration of justice</i>															
Fail to Appear	2,789	3.2	-7.6	2,641	3.0	-5.3	2,769	3.2	4.8	2,637	3.1	-4.8	2,559	3.6	-3.0
Breach of Probation	887	1.0	-2.8	836	1.0	-5.7	712	0.8	-14.8	673	0.8	-5.5	493	0.7	-26.7
Unlawfully at large	1,882	2.1	-14.6	1,839	2.1	-2.3	1,716	2.0	-6.7	1,593	1.9	-7.2	1,220	1.7	-23.4
Fail to comply with an order	11,203	12.8	-3.9	11,905	13.6	6.3	12,608	14.7	5.9	12,994	15.4	3.1	11,374	16.1	-12.5
Other offences against the administration of justice	686	0.8	-17.0	725	0.8	5.7	790	0.9	9.0	678	0.8	-14.2	974	1.4	43.7
YOAYCJA ²	20,627	23.5	2.0	20,359	23.2	-1.3	20,098	23.5	-1.3	20,330	24.0	1.2	13,905	19.7	-31.6
	1994/95			1995/96			1996/97			1997/98			1998/99		
	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change	#	%	% change
Total offences¹	96,247	100.0	...	95,462	100.0	-0.8	94,931	100.0	-0.6	97,161	100.0	2.3	92,867	100.0	-4.4
Offences against the administration of justice	28,992	30.1	...	29,910	31.3	3.2	30,833	32.5	3.1	34,219	35.2	11.0	33,766	36.4	-1.3
<i>Criminal code - Offences against the administration of justice</i>															
Fail to Appear	2,847	3.0	...	2,993	3.1	5.1	2,830	3.0	-5.4	3,128	3.2	10.5	3,017	3.2	-3.5
Breach of Probation	969	1.0	...	889	0.9	-8.3	626	0.7	-29.6	518	0.5	-17.3	913	1.0	76.3
Unlawfully at large	2,516	2.6	...	2,501	2.6	-0.6	2,437	2.6	-2.6	2,467	2.5	1.2	2,204	2.4	-10.7
Fail to comply with an order	9,840	10.2	...	10,559	11.1	7.3	10,719	11.3	1.5	11,571	11.9	7.9	11,652	12.5	0.7
Other offences against the administration of justice	812	0.8	...	803	0.8	-1.1	762	0.8	-5.1	753	0.8	-1.2	827	0.9	9.8
YOAYCJA ²	15,763	16.4	...	16,257	17.0	3.1	17,817	18.8	9.6	20,642	21.2	15.9	20,226	21.8	-2.0

... not applicable

Notes: Due to multiple charge cases with more than one offence against the administration of justice, percentages do not add up to the total.

1. Total offences include the offences against the administration of justice.

2. The YOAY is the *Young Offenders Act* and the YCJA is the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

3. Percentage change from previous year.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 5

Average duration in days of adult¹ criminal court single cases, total offences² and offences against the administration of justice (OAAJ), provinces and territories³ in Canada, 1994/95 to 2003/04

Provinces and territories	1999/00		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03		2003/04	
	Total offences ²	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ
Total for 8 provinces and territories	143	119	150	120	184	142	185	138	215	163
Newfoundland and Labrador	102	101	100	89	144	105	144	128	180	118
Prince Edward Island	19	18	15	13	24	21	31	32	55	33
Nova Scotia	153	166	158	150	231	216	231	228	224	235
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	130	151	137	145	143	140
Quebec	159	157	170	161	223	225	224	213	299	279
Ontario	150	123	159	126	192	139	193	140	221	159
Manitoba	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	110	80	117	75	127	78	137	81	149	99
Alberta	123	79	121	77	137	105	126	80	143	104
British Columbia	..	..	..	..	170	101	178	109	195	119
Yukon Territory	132	92	164	69	148	129	123	135	139	97
Northwest Territories	61	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Provinces and territories	1994/95		1995/96		1996/97		1997/98		1998/99	
	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ
Total for 8 provinces and territories	121	110	127	113	132	116	147	122	139	115
Newfoundland and Labrador	57	55	62	66	70	73	92	71	95	96
Prince Edward Island	28	22	43	46	52	60	52	48	39	19
Nova Scotia	138	158	141	168	161	169	214	184	157	147
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	148	138	181	151	178	163	186	189	146	151
Ontario	124	111	124	110	132	113	145	122	145	119
Manitoba	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	79	63	82	68	92	69	109	72	116	78
Alberta	99	85	105	99	103	99	113	69	123	79
British Columbia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yukon Territory	115	70	134	81	137	113	147	140	162	92
Northwest Territories	59	41	58	53	..	..	54	42	53	32

.. not available for any reference period

.. not available for a given reference period

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to the total.

1. Includes only adults and excludes businesses appearing before adult criminal courts.

2. Total offences include the offences against the administration of justice.

3. The total for eight provinces and territories does not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Superior court data in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan are not reported. Superior court data were collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent about 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 6

Incarceration rate¹ (%) in the adult² criminal court single charge cases with a guilty sentence, total offences³ and offences against the administration of justice (OAAJ), provinces and territories⁴ in Canada, 1994/95 to 2003/04

Provinces and territories	1999/00		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03		2003/04	
	Total offences ³	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ
Total for 8 provinces and territories	29	51	29	51	28	50	29	50	30	49
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	44	15	49	17	53	17	52	17	48
Prince Edward Island	48	72	48	67	42	65	41	59	39	55
Nova Scotia	18	44	19	46	17	41	16	35	19	37
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	16	29	16	31	17	34
Quebec	21	40	23	42	20	36	19	37	20	35
Ontario	35	59	35	59	34	58	34	57	36	55
Manitoba	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	16	29	15	27	15	26	16	27	17	28
Alberta	24	41	25	41	26	43	28	46	30	45
British Columbia	..	..	..	..	30	56	31	57	34	59
Yukon Territory	34	60	29	59	35	76	33	68	23	50
Northwest Territories	29	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Provinces and territories	1994/95		1995/96		1996/97		1997/98		1998/99	
	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ
Total for 8 provinces and territories	27	50	27	49	27	51	28	49	29	51
Newfoundland and Labrador	20	49	18	52	17	46	17	41	15	44
Prince Edward Island	36	60	36	59	41	61	51	72	53	76
Nova Scotia	14	33	17	43	17	47	17	49	18	44
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	19	38	21	40	21	42	21	42	20	39
Ontario	34	61	32	58	33	58	33	55	36	61
Manitoba	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	19	32	18	29	19	34	19	31	19	33
Alberta	24	39	24	41	22	42	24	42	25	40
British Columbia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yukon Territory	29	61	30	62	27	50	33	73	45	64
Northwest Territories	28	38	30	40	..	..	30	58	33	46

- .. not available for any reference period
 .. not available for a given reference period

Notes:

1. The incarceration rate is the proportion of convicted cases where prison was used as a sanction.
2. Includes only adults and excludes businesses appearing before adult criminal courts.
3. Total offences include the offences against the administration of justice.
4. The total for eight provinces and territories does not include New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Superior court data in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan are not reported. Superior court data were collected in Alberta from 1998/99, in Yukon from 1999/00, in Prince Edward Island from 2000/01, in New Brunswick and British Columbia in 2001/02, and in Nova Scotia in 2002/03. Cases completed in superior courts represent about 2% of total cases in each of these jurisdictions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 7

Incarceration rate¹ in the youth court single charge cases with a guilty sentence, total offences² and offences against the administration of justice (OAAJ), provinces and territories in Canada, 1994/95 to 2002/03³

Provinces and territories	1999/00		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03	
	Total offences ²	OAAJ	Total offences ¹	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ
Canada	20	40	20	42	18	39	18	38
Newfoundland and Labrador	13	36	15	48	15	49	19	44
Prince Edward Island	27	64	38	71	23	52	29	55
Nova Scotia	16	38	18	41	19	39	19	43
New Brunswick	22	48	24	48	23	54	23	50
Quebec	15	35	15	34	14	34	13	31
Ontario	23	51	22	50	20	45	18	41
Manitoba	14	18	17	30	15	27	17	35
Saskatchewan	24	47	25	48	22	44	24	47
Alberta	13	21	13	21	12	21	12	19
British Columbia	23	44	25	49	25	48	23	46
Yukon	31	50	41	71	39	65	38	92
Northwest Territories (excluding Nunavut)	45	73	35	51	26	41	20	20
Nunavut	16	25	10	8	10	17	16	18

Provinces and territories	1994/95		1995/96		1996/97		1997/98		1998/99	
	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ	Total offences	OAAJ
Canada	21	45	20	44	19	41	21	43	21	42
Newfoundland and Labrador	19	67	17	46	13	47	11	43	16	42
Prince Edward Island	23	74	29	70	29	66	33	52	31	76
Nova Scotia	14	37	14	41	14	36	13	33	17	37
New Brunswick	18	49	18	50	19	49	18	47	19	47
Quebec	19	43	15	34	15	39	16	34	16	36
Ontario	26	58	26	58	24	54	25	56	24	53
Manitoba	17	20	17	25	18	23	19	28	18	30
Saskatchewan	18	39	18	45	21	46	24	48	24	50
Alberta	15	26	13	25	12	20	15	25	13	19
British Columbia	20	50	16	40	19	43	22	45	23	46
Yukon	18	43	26	65	26	42	34	54	31	63
Northwest Territories (including Nunavut)	23	49	20	52	23	54	27	68	27	55

Notes:

1. The incarceration rate is the proportion of convicted cases where prison was used as a sanction.
2. Total offences include the offences against the administration of justice.
3. The Youth Court Program was unable to update this information for 2003/04 because of the introduction of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA). Some jurisdictions provided their data to the Youth Court Survey (under the *Young Offenders Act*), rather than the Integrated Criminal Courts Survey (under the YCJA). As part of the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS), data will be collected on the activities of the courts for all charges brought under federal laws, starting with the 2004/05 data collection.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 26, no. 2

Youth custody and community services in Canada, 2003/04

by Donna Calverley

Highlights

- In 2003/04, admissions to youth correctional services declined by one-quarter overall compared to 2002/03, including admissions to open (-46%) and secure custody (-43%), admissions to remand (-13%), and admissions to probation (-40%).
- There were about 33,800 young persons (aged 12 to 17 years) admitted to correctional services. Of those, 17,500 admissions were to custody (52%) and 16,200 admissions were to supervised probation (48%).
- Admissions to remand comprised almost 3/4 (73%) of admissions to custody in 2003/04, compared to 2/3 (63%) in 2002/03.
- In 2003/04, Aboriginal offenders represented a larger proportion of young persons admitted to sentenced custody compared to 2002/03. Among males admitted to sentenced custody, Aboriginal males accounted for 22% in 2002/03, but increased to 28% in 2003/04. Among female young persons, admissions of Aboriginal females to sentenced custody increased from 28% in 2002/03 to 35% in 2003/04.
- Although the number of admissions to remand of non-Aboriginal young persons decreased by 17%, from about 9,500 in 2002/03 to 7,900 in 2003/04, the number of admissions to remand of Aboriginal young persons increased slightly (+3%) from approximately 2,900 in 2002/03 to 3,000 in 2003/04.
- On any given day in 2003/04, there were approximately 23,400 young persons either in custody or under supervised probation in Canada among reporting jurisdictions. Most young persons in correctional services were on probation (91%), while 6% were in sentenced custody, and 3% were in pre-trial detention (remand).
- The total rate of incarceration (sentenced custody and remand) in 2003/04 was 9 per 10,000 youth population, a 30% decrease from the previous year and a 55% decrease from 1994/95.
- The probation rate was 88 per 10,000 youth population in 2003/04, a decline of 20% from the prior year.



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Introduction

On April 1, 2003 the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) came into force, replacing the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) which had been in effect since 1984. The YCJA is the legislative foundation for a broader structure of reform to the youth justice system in Canada. The YCJA concentrates on developing new community programs in an effort to promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of young persons into the community.

The YCJA represents an important change in the way the criminal justice system in Canada treats young persons. For example, the YCJA sets out clear principles as to the purpose of the youth criminal justice system, providing direction with respect to the application of the Act. In an effort to reduce reliance on the incarceration of young persons, the YCJA places emphasis on diversion from the justice system, reserving custody sentences for only the most serious offenders. The range of sentencing options has also been expanded, with increased emphasis on rehabilitation. These and other changes have had a dramatic effect on the delivery of youth correctional services. This *Juristat* describes the impact of the YCJA during its first year of implementation and shows the notable decreases in the number of incarcerated youth in Canada.

Text box 1

Data sources and measures

The data in this *Juristat* are primarily drawn from the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey, and the Corrections Key Indicator Report (KIR) conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Admissions and releases data for New Brunswick are taken from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS), a new person-based survey that is being implemented by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, and which will eventually replace the YCCS survey. The ICSS collects detailed data pertaining to the delivery of both youth and adult correctional services in Canada. These microdata are collected through three distinct records organized by offender (e.g., socio-demographic characteristics such as age, sex, Aboriginal identity etc.), their legal statuses (e.g., pre-trial custody, sentence type, community release, aggregate time served, admitting and releasing facilities, etc.) and different events that occur while under supervision (e.g., escapes, temporary absences, etc.). The records are longitudinal, permitting analysis of correctional service histories.

This *Juristat* makes use of two basic indicators that describe the use of correctional services: the average number or count of young persons, and the number of annual admissions to correctional facilities or to community supervision programs.

Counts describe the number of persons in custody or serving a sentence in the community at a given point in time. They provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as a key operational measure for determining the utilization of services, such as bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily counts in their facilities and monthly counts of young persons under community supervision. Average counts are more representative of longer term inmates as well as those serving longer term community supervision orders and therefore, an indication of the ongoing caseload handled by both institutions and community supervision programs.

Admissions data are collected when an offender enters an institution or community supervision program, and describe and measure the caseload in correctional agencies over time. While aggregate admissions include all persons passing through the correctional system, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals in the correctional system. The same person can be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g. from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year. Although the YCCS survey attempts to standardize the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictional operational systems may restrict uniform application of the definitions in some situations. Although similar sentences are specified in the legislation pre and post YCJA, the implementation of the legislation and the introduction of new sentences has had an impact on the manner in which some caseloads are administered. For these reasons, comparisons between 2003/04 and previous years and between jurisdictions should be made with caution. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Methodology section.

Text box 2

Jurisdictional comparisons

The administration of the youth justice system is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Correctional services provided to youth include remand (pre-trial detention), secure and open custody and programs administered within the community such as probation and community service.

When examining the data contained in this *Juristat*, and the trends and differences between jurisdictions, it is important to consider that these results are in part a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada. A significant factor that contributes to differing trends is the use of informal (e.g. police discretion) and formal diversions measures (e.g. extrajudicial sanctions) by police and Crown. Such diversion methods have an impact on both the court case-flow as well as admissions to correctional facilities and programs.

As the data in this report are drawn from provincial/territorial administrative information systems, they are also sensitive to local case management practices as well as differences in the way information is maintained on these systems. Consequently, the reader is advised to consider table notes and use caution in making comparisons between jurisdictions. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Methodology section.

Young persons admitted to custody

In 2003/04, there were approximately 33,800 admissions to supervised youth correctional services. About 52% of admissions were to custody and 48% to probation. Of those admitted to custody, 15% were admitted to secure custody, 13% were admitted to open custody, and 73% were admitted to remand (see Text table 1).

Far fewer young persons were admitted to custody in the first year of the YCJA

One of the key concerns of the YOA was the overuse of custody. In an attempt to decrease custody rates, the YCJA does not allow a young person to be sentenced to custody unless he or she has committed a serious violent offence, has not complied with non-custodial sentences, has committed an indictable offence for which an adult would be liable to imprisonment for more than two years and has a history indicating a pattern of findings of guilt, or in exceptional circumstances where the youth has committed an indictable offence and a non-custodial sentence would be inconsistent with the purposes and principles of sentencing of the Act (s. 39, YCJA). Admissions to custody¹ gradually declined from about 25,000 admissions² in 1999/00 to 23,000 in 2002/03, and in 2003/04 admissions to custody dropped dramatically to 17,100 (see Figure 1).

1. Includes open and secure custody, as well as remand.

2. Excludes New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

Text table 1

Admissions of young persons to the correctional system, by jurisdiction, 2003/04

	Secure custody	Open custody	Total sentenced custody	Remand	Total custody	Probation	Total correctional services
Total	2,579	2,282	4,861	12,685	17,546	16,210	33,756
Newfoundland and Labrador	108	76	184	202	386	235	621
Prince Edward Island	11	8	19	17	36	133	169
Nova Scotia	20	140	160	188	348	771	1,119
New Brunswick ¹	125	119	244	295	539	439	978
Quebec	651	415	1,066	1,487	2,553	4,014	6,567
Ontario 12 to 15 year olds	406	525	931	..	..	5,044	..
Ontario 16 and 17 year olds	812	709	1,521	5,640	7,161	6,047	13,208
Manitoba	113	261	374	1,539	1,913	788	2,701
Saskatchewan	239	256	495	..	..	1,339	..
Alberta ²	497	239	736	2,016	2,752	2,119	4,871
British Columbia	242	315	557	1,301	1,858	1,664	3,522
Yukon	x	8	..	23	..	20	..
Northwest Territories	18	20	38	24	62	..	..
Nunavut	13	11	24	25	49	..	..

Note: Total excludes Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

.. not available for any specific reference period

... not applicable

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

1. Data have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata.

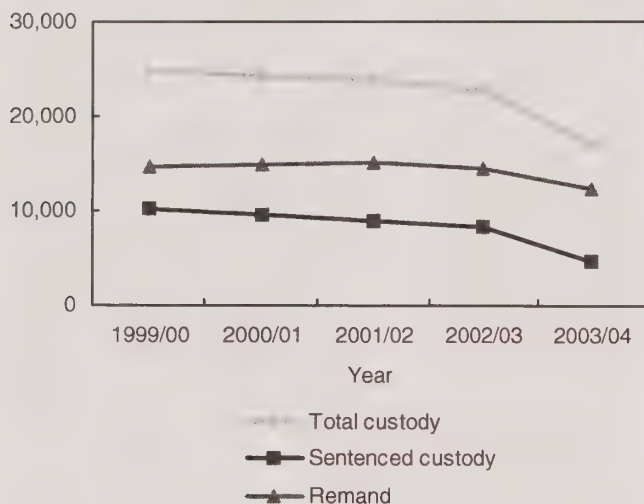
2. Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of counts for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from microdata supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 1

Admissions of young persons to custody, 1999/00 to 2003/04

Number of admissions



Note: Excludes New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

The decrease in the number of custody admissions was driven by a decline in sentenced custody. In 2003/04, admissions to sentenced custody dropped 44% from the previous year.³ There were 4,651 sentenced custody admissions in 2003/04, compared to 8,356 in 2002/03. Admissions to open custody declined by 46%, from 4,021 in 2002/03 to 2,168 admissions in 2003/04. Secure custody admissions declined 43% to 2,483 in 2003/04 (see Text table 2).

Text table 2

Number of young persons admitted to custodial services, 2002/03 to 2003/04

	2002/03		2003/04		% change from 2002/03 to 2003/04
	Total admissions	% of total custodial admissions	Total admissions	% of total custodial admissions	
Total custodial admissions	22,743	100	17,113	100	-25
Remand	14,387	63	12,462	73	-13
Sentenced custody	8,356	37	4,651	27	-44
Secure custody	4,335	19	2,483	15	-43
Open custody	4,021	18	2,168	13	-46

Note: Excludes New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text box 3

The YCJA: Changing how youth are treated

Youth criminal justice policy has changed significantly over the past century. This can be seen in the present and past legislation that provided the philosophy and process for dealing with children and youth in contact with the law.

The first of these, the *Juvenile Delinquents Act* (JDA) (enacted 1908), largely promoted the child welfare of young offenders. This perspective required judges to treat children not as criminals, but as misdirected and misguided youth (s. 38, JDA). The aim of the JDA was to permit social intervention in order to 'save' misdirected children. The Act saw no distinction between delinquent and neglected children. However, because of the Act's welfare philosophy, little consideration was given to children's rights. Children were often denied basic elements of due process, which were given to adults, including a right to counsel, to appeal and to a definite sentence. By the 1960's there was growing belief that a child's welfare should not be the only principle guiding youth criminal legislation (Bala, 2003).

In response to the shortcomings of the JDA, the Young Offenders Act (YOA) came into effect in 1984. The YOA gave more recognition to the legal rights of the child (Bala, 2003). It brought regulations into force for every stage of the judicial process. Moreover, the YOA placed greater emphasis on the protection of society and accountability, resulting in an increase in the punitive nature of sentences. According to Justice Canada,⁴ under the YOA, the youth justice system lacked a coherent justice philosophy. The system did not make a clear distinction between serious violent offences and less serious offences, and the courts were overused for minor cases that could have been better dealt with through diversion. Thus, on April 1, 2003 the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) came into effect. The YCJA provides a framework through principles, presumptions, as well as new sentencing and diversion options to distinguish between serious violent offences and less serious offences.

Prior to the YCJA, young persons could be subject to a transfer hearing, held before trial, to decide if the case should be moved to adult court, (Bala, 2003) thus losing age-appropriate due process and privacy protections. The YCJA provides that all proceedings against a young person must take place in a youth court and a hearing on the appropriateness of an adult sentence would only occur after a finding of guilt. It also provides that youth (under 18 years of age) serve an adult sentence in a youth facility.

As well, the YOA did not address the issue of community reintegration of a young person after release from custody.⁵ The YCJA, however, requires that a portion of most custody sentences be served under community supervision.

3. Excludes New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, and Saskatchewan.

4. **Source:** Department of Justice Canada. (2001). "The Youth Criminal Justice Act: Summary and Background", Ottawa.

5. **Source:** Department of Justice Canada. (2001). "The Youth Criminal Justice Act: Summary and Background", Ottawa.

Jurisdictions vary in decline of custody

Prior to the implementation of the YCJA, in 2003, admissions to both secure and open custody had been declining, in part due to a declining crime rate, but also likely due to an increasing emphasis on diversion that preceded the YCJA. From 1999/00 to 2002/03, admissions to secure custody declined 15% and open custody declined 22%. With the exception of Nunavut, all jurisdictions reported a decrease in admissions to secure custody from 2002/03 to 2003/04, ranging from 26% in Quebec to 70% in Prince Edward Island. Admissions to open custody decreased in all jurisdictions, ranging from 28% in Manitoba to 80% in Prince Edward Island (see Table 1).

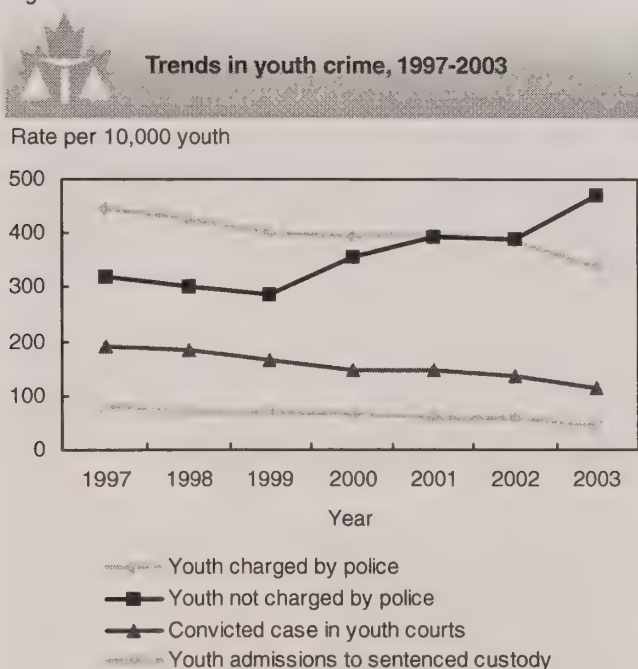
Text box 4 Trends in youth crime

Young persons charged by the police have been gradually declining for the past decade. The YCJA allows police greater discretion to divert young persons from the judicial process. From 1997 to 2002, the rate of young persons charged decreased 13%. From 2002 to 2003, the rate of young persons charged decreased 12%, while the rate of young persons not charged increased 22%.

The rate of convicted youth cases has been declining as well. From 1997/98 to 2002/03 the rate of convicted youth court cases decreased from 190 per 10,000 youth to 135 per 10,000 youth, a decrease of 29%. In 2003/04, the rate of convicted cases fell to 113, a decrease of 16%, the largest single year decrease of that time period.

Given what has happened at the police and court levels, the rate of youth admitted to sentenced custody has been steadily declining in the correctional system as well, dropping from 82 sentenced custody admissions per 10,000 youth in 1997/98 to 43 in 2003/04* (see Figure 2).

Figure 2



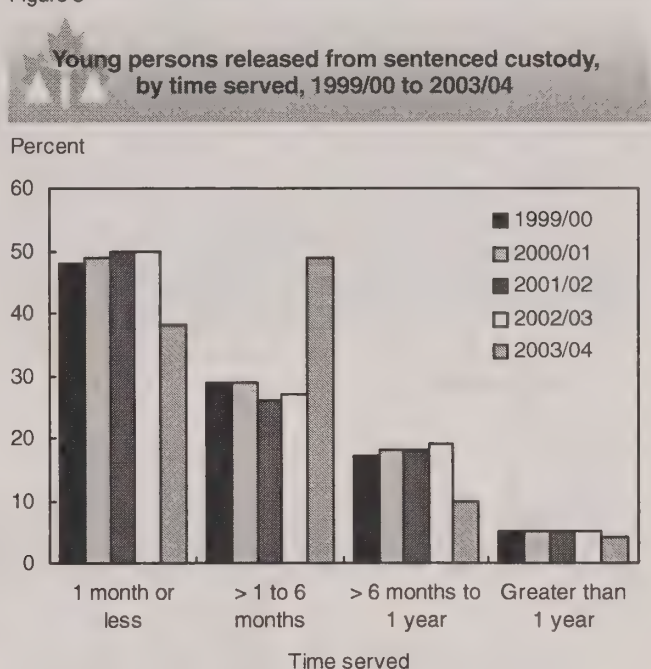
Note: Excludes New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Sources: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Youth Court Survey and the Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Population Estimates: Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Nearly nine in ten youth sentenced to custody serve 6 months or less

As can be seen in Figure 3, the proportion of young persons⁷ serving between 1 and 6 months has increased from 27% to 49% in 2003/04. In contrast, those serving both shorter and longer periods in custody have declined. It is likely that the YCJA's emphasis on reducing the use of incarceration for less serious offences means that only the more serious offenders are receiving custody sentences and that their sentences tend to be longer. At the same time, the mandatory one-third community portion of a custody and supervisions order⁸ is reducing overall time served resulting in a mixed effect (see Figure 3).

Figure 3



Note: Excludes New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text box 5 Sentence Length

When examining sentence lengths, it is important to distinguish between the sentence length ordered by the youth court judge and the way in which sentence length is determined by correctional services (time served). Correctional services consider sentence length in terms of aggregate sentences. The offender may be serving multiple sentences which may be the product of multiple court decisions. Appeals, reviews and the effects of new sentences served concurrently or consecutively (aggregate) may further influence the overall aggregate sentence.

In this *Juristat* actual time served is used to better reflect the length of time a young person is serving under sentence in custody.

6. In order to compare years New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut have been excluded.
7. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.
8. The YOA required that youth serve their full sentence in custody, whereas under the YCJA young persons are required to serve the final one-third of most sentences in the community.

Property offences account for the largest proportion of admissions to sentenced custody

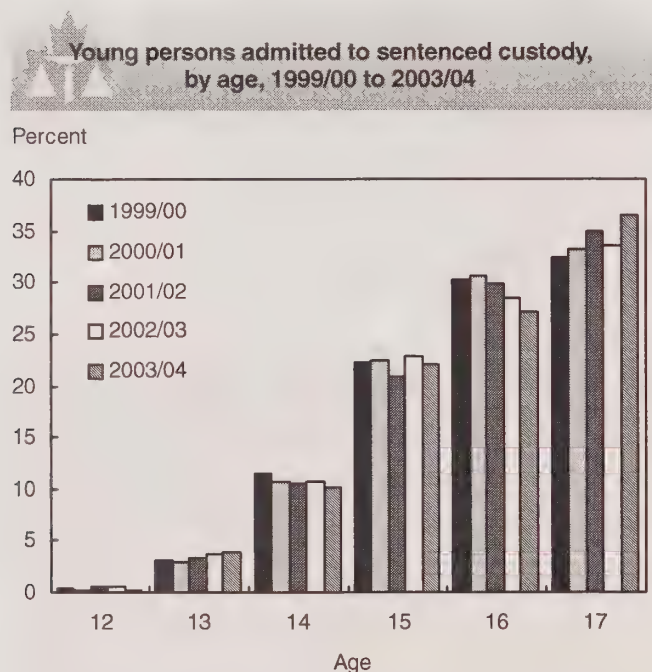
From 1998/99 to 2003/04, the distribution of admissions to sentenced custody by the most serious offence has remained stable. In 2003/04, property offences⁹ accounted for 37% of sentenced custody admissions, followed by violent offences¹⁰ and other criminal code offences¹¹ (25%), and other offences¹² (12%) (see Table 2).

New Brunswick, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories reported a higher proportion of admissions for violent offences than property offences. In Manitoba violent offences accounted for two-thirds of sentenced custody admissions and in the Northwest Territories violent offences accounted for half of all sentenced custody admissions.

Increase in proportion of admissions of seventeen year olds to sentenced custody

Since 1999/00, young persons aged 16 and 17 years old have accounted for the majority of admissions to sentenced custody¹³ (see Figure 4). Although the overall percent of 16 and 17 year olds have remained stable in the last 5 years, there has been a gradual decrease in the proportion of admissions of 16 year olds and an increase in the proportion of admissions of 17 year olds. It is not surprising to see older youths in custody. Older youths have longer time at risk, thus continuing in the system may decrease the chances for diversion procedures.

Figure 4



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Proportion of female admissions to custody decline

Prior to the implementation of the YCJA, the proportion of admissions to sentenced custody that were female was gradually increasing, compared to admissions of males. However, in 2003/04, the proportion of admissions to sentenced custody involving females dropped from 20% to 13%, thus reversing this trend (see Text table 3). Females may have decreased proportionally in admissions to custody because of the types of offences committed by females. Generally, females commit less serious offences, allowing the court to follow YCJA sentencing practices, either diverting females or sentencing them to community supervision.

Text table 3

Admissions of young persons to sentenced custody, by sex, 1999/00 to 2003/04			
Year	Admissions		
	Total ¹	Male	Female
	N	%	
1999/00	7,926	84	16
2000/01	7,403	82	18
2001/02	6,852	82	18
2002/03	6,695	80	20
2003/04	3,541	87	13

1. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Sentencing Aboriginal youth under the Youth Criminal Justice Act

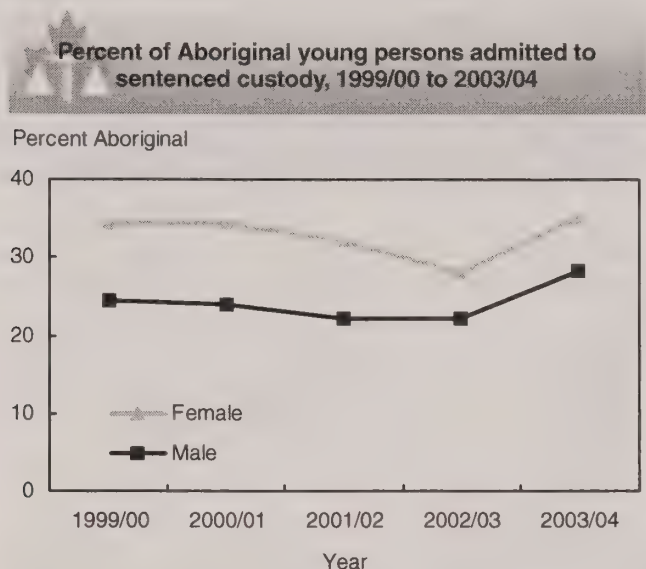
In stating its purpose and principles of sentencing, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* draws attention to the needs of Aboriginal young persons, in that "all available sanctions other than custody that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all young persons, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal young persons" (s.38 (2)(d), YCJA).¹⁴

In 2003/04, there were 1,475 Aboriginal young persons admitted to sentenced custody. Of those admitted to sentenced custody, 775 Aboriginal young persons were admitted to open and 700 were admitted to secure representing 30% and 27% of all young persons admitted (see Table 3).

9. Property offences include break and enter, theft over \$5000, theft under \$5000, possession of stolen goods, mischief and 'other property offences'.
10. Violent offences include common assault, assault level 2, sexual assault, robbery and 'other violent offences'.
11. Other criminal code offences include, among other offences, failure to appear and disorderly conduct.
12. Other offences includes drug-related offences, YOA/YCJA and other federal statutes, and provincial/territorial/municipal offences.
13. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.
14. This same principle of sentencing can also be found under Section 718.2 (e) of the Criminal Code.

Until 2003/04, the proportion of young persons admitted to sentenced custody¹⁵ that were Aboriginal had decreased. As indicated in Figure 5, there was a marked increase in the proportion of Aboriginal admissions to sentenced custody. This increase was more dramatic in the proportion of Aboriginal females, which have a higher level of representation compared to males. In comparison, Aboriginal young persons comprised 5% of the youth population.¹⁶

Figure 5



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Fewer youth being remanded into custody

In the first full year of the YCJA, remand admissions¹⁷ declined by 13%, from 14,387 in 2002/03 to 12,462 in 2003/04 (see Text table 2). This drop, however, is much smaller than the drop in sentenced custody admissions; consequently, remand has increased in proportion to all custodial admissions. In 1999/00, the proportion of remand to all custody admissions was 63%. By 2003/04, remands comprised approximately three quarters of custodial admissions. The high level of remand admissions creates operational challenges for the correctional system that are different from those in handling sentenced offenders.¹⁸ For example, the need for higher levels of security, regular transportation to and from court, and difficulties delivering programming.¹⁹

A possible reason for the smaller decrease in remand admissions compared to sentenced admissions may be that the provisions for remanding high risk offenders are unchanged from the YOA which derive their direction from Judicial Interim Release provisions of the Criminal Code (s.515 (10)). These provisions state that remand can only be used to ensure court attendance, for the protection of society, or any other just cause being shown and where detention is necessary in order to maintain confidence in the administration of justice. As well, two noteworthy guidelines have been added to the YCJA. A

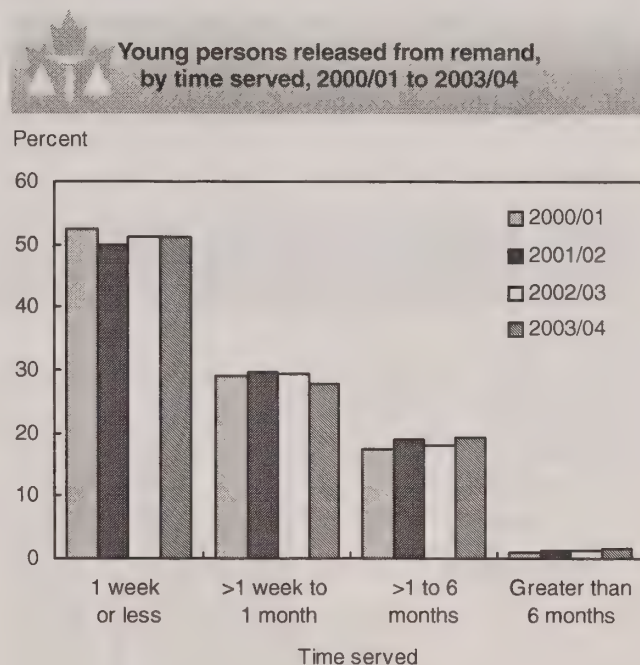
young person shall not be detained in custody prior to sentencing as a social measure (e.g., child protection, mental health (s.29 (1)), and a youth justice shall not presume that detention is necessary if, after considering detention for the purpose of public safety/protection (s.515 (10)(b), CCC), the young person could not be committed to custody if found guilty.

The decline in admissions to remand from 2002/03 to 2003/04 occurred in all jurisdictions except Nunavut. The decrease ranged from 8% in Nova Scotia to 60% in Prince Edward Island (see Table 1).

Time spent on remand continues to be short

As in prior years, time spent in remand is relatively short. In 2003/04, about half of all releases from remand occurred within one week of admission; approximately 25% spent between one week and one month in remand, and another 18% were released between one to six months²⁰ (see Figure 6).

Figure 6



Note: Excludes Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, and Saskatchewan.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

15. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

16. Statistics Canada 2001 Census: Aboriginal population.

17. Excludes New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, and Saskatchewan.

18. See Johnson, S. 2002. "Custodial remand in Canada, 1986/87 to 2000/01" *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002, Vol.23, No.7. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

19. Offender programs may include treatment for substance abuse and/or anger management.

20. Excludes Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, and Saskatchewan.

The distribution of young persons released from remand by time served between the jurisdictions is quite variable. Sixty-five percent of young persons admitted to Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia were released within one week. However, 68% of young persons in Nunavut spent between one and 6 months in remand (see Table 4).

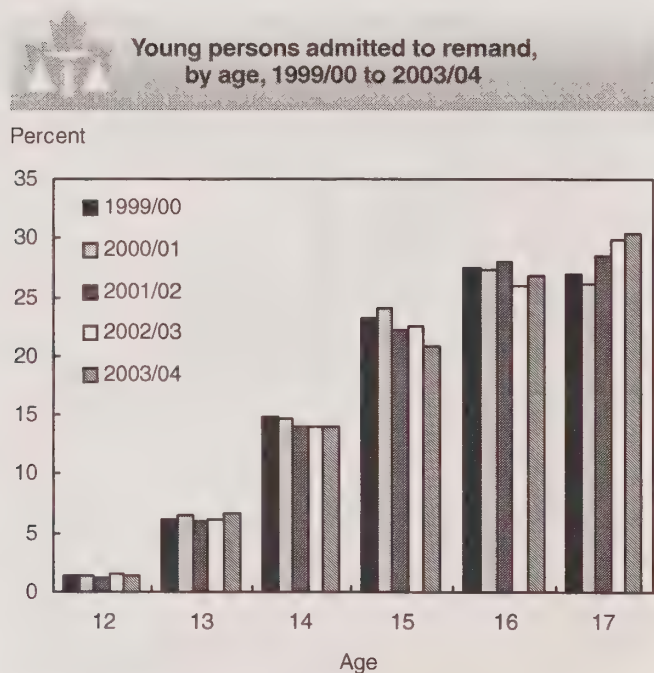
A large proportion of young persons admitted to remand are for violent offences

In 2003/04, 30% of all young persons were admitted to remand for violent offences,²¹ as well, property crimes²² accounted for 31%, other criminal code²³ accounted for 16%, and other offences²⁴ accounted for 23%. The largest proportion of remand admissions for violent offences were reported in Manitoba (61%), Nunavut (44%) and Prince Edward Island (41%), whereas Alberta reported the least percentage of remand admissions for violent offences (7%) (see Table 2).

Increase in the proportion of admissions to remand of 17 year olds

As with sentenced custody, seventeen year olds are gradually increasing in proportion among admissions to remand.²⁵ In 1999/00, 17 year olds represented 27% of all admissions to remand, increasing to over 30% in 2003/04, with a proportional decrease shown in admissions of 15 year olds (see Figure 7).

Figure 7



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Females represent about one in five admissions to remand

From 1999/00 to 2003/04, although there have been fluctuations in the proportion of admissions to remand,²⁶ the proportion of female admissions to remand has generally been declining. In 2003/04, the proportion of females admitted to remand was 18% (see Text table 4). Again, females may be less likely to be committed to remand because they commit less serious offences and are less likely to be in the system repeatedly.

Text table 4

Year	Admissions		
	Total ¹	Male	Female
	N	%	
1999/00	12,289	79	21
2000/01	12,735	81	19
2001/02	12,803	81	19
2002/03	12,647	80	20
2003/04	10,933	82	18

1. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Almost one third of remand admissions were Aboriginal young persons

In 2003/04, 3,029 Aboriginal young persons were admitted to remand representing 27% of all young persons admitted (see Table 3).

Similar to sentenced custody admissions, Aboriginal youths admitted to remand²⁷ had been decreasing as a proportion of all remand admissions prior to the implementation of the YCJA, but increased noticeably in 2003/04. As indicated in Figure 8, prior to 2003/04, the representation of Aboriginal young persons among remand admissions had been gradually declining. In 2003/04, there was a marked increase in the proportion of Aboriginal admissions. In comparison, Aboriginal young persons comprised 5% of the youth population in reporting jurisdictions.²⁸ Aboriginal females consistently have a higher level of representation among remand admissions compared to males.

21. See Footnote 10.

22. See Footnote 9.

23. See Footnote 11.

24. See Footnote 12.

25. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

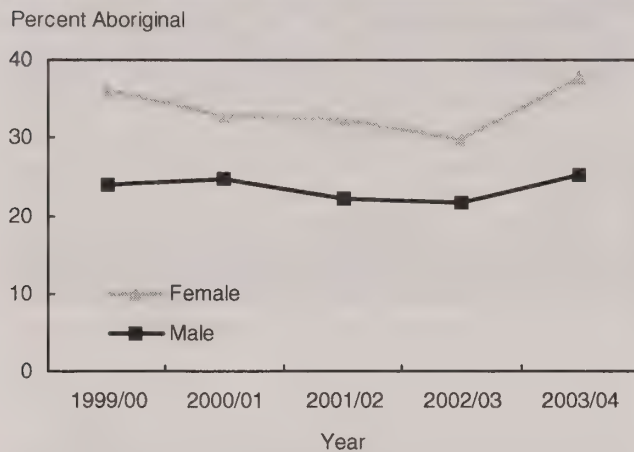
26. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

27. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

28. Statistics Canada 2001 Census.

Figure 8

Percent of Aboriginal young persons admitted to remand, 1999/00 to 2003/04



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Young persons admitted to community supervision

Admissions to probation also decline

Between 1999/00 and 2002/03, probation admissions had been declining or remained relatively unchanged in all jurisdictions with the exception of Ontario 16 and 17 year olds and Saskatchewan. Probation admissions increased 27% for Ontario's 16 and 17 year olds and 5% in Saskatchewan over this period. In 2003/04, probation admissions²⁹ decreased 34% from 22,734 in 2002/03 to 15,003 in 2003/04. All jurisdictions reported a decrease in probation, although the decrease was not uniform – ranging from 4% in Prince Edward Island to 50% in Quebec and 52% in Newfoundland and Labrador (see Text table 5).

Offenders who have concluded their probation were most likely to have spent between 6 months to 1 year under supervision

In 2003/04, 45% of all probation terminations occurred between 6 months to one year. One-third of probationers were supervised between 1 and 2 years, and another 11% of young persons concluded their supervision after 2 years (see Table 5).

29. Excludes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Text table 5

Admissions of young persons to probation, 1999/00, 2002/03 and 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Probation				
	Admissions			% change of admissions	
	1999/00	2002/03	2003/04	1999/00 to 2002/03	2002/03 to 2003/04
Total¹	23,193	22,734	15,003	-2	-34
Newfoundland & Labrador	631	490	235	-22	-52
Prince Edward Island	167	138	133	-17	-4
Nova Scotia	1,545	1,101	771	-29	-30
New Brunswick ²	862	686	439	-20	...
Quebec	8,036	8,092	4,014	1	-50
Ontario 12 to 15 year olds	9,992	..	5,044	...	...
Ontario 16 and 17 year olds	6,275	7,936	6,047	27	-24
Manitoba	..	1,087	788	...	-28
Saskatchewan ³	1,634	1,715	1,339	5	...
Alberta ⁴	3,115	2,632	2,119	-16	-19
British Columbia ⁵	3,329	2,281	1,664	...	-8
Yukon	95	37	20	-61	-46
Northwest Territories	..	..	..	...	...
Nunavut	..	..	..	...	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Total excludes New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

2. Data have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata. Comparisons should not be made to data prior to 2002/03.

3. Due to a system change in 2003/04, comparisons to data from prior years should not be made.

4. Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of counts for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from microdata supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

5. Due to a system change in 1999/00, comparisons to data from prior years should not be made.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

There was a great deal of variability in time supervised on probation among the jurisdictions. More than half of all terminations in Newfoundland and Labrador occurred within 6 months, whereas only 6% in Ontario and 5% in Manitoba occurred within this time period. On the other hand, while nationally 11% of probationers concluded supervision after 2 years, which was the case for New Brunswick and Ontario, 36% of all terminations in Manitoba concluded after two years.

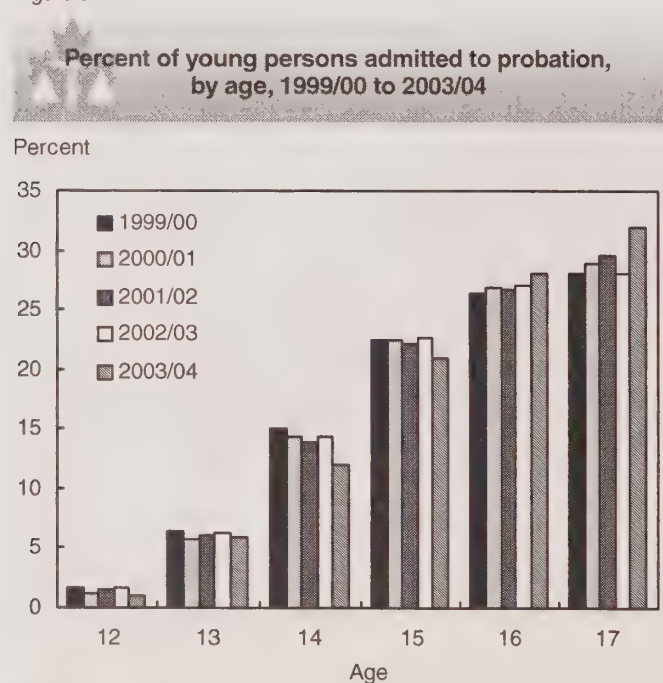
The largest proportion of admissions to probation were for property crimes

In 2003/04, the largest proportion of admissions of young persons to probation was for property offences³⁰ (42%). Another 35% of admissions to probation were for violent offences,³¹ 10% for other criminal code offences,³² and 13% of admissions were for other offences.³³ With the exception of Manitoba and British Columbia, most jurisdictions reported property offences as the largest proportion of admissions by most serious offence. Manitoba and British Columbia each reported a higher proportion of admissions for violent offences, 50% and 34%, respectively (see Table 2).

Slight increase in the proportion of admissions of older young persons to probation

As is the case in admissions to custody, there has been a general increase in the proportion of admissions involving 17 year old young persons to probation.³⁴ The proportion of seventeen year olds have increased 4 percentage points, from 28% in 1999/00 to 32% in 2003/04. At the same time, there was a 2 percentage point increase in admissions involving young persons aged 16 years. Proportionally, admissions of 14 year olds have

Figure 9



Note: Includes Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon.
Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

decreased from 15% in 1999/00 to 12% in 2003/04. All other age categories have remained stable (see Figure 9).

Proportion of female admissions to probation remain stable

Unlike sentenced custody, the proportion of admissions to probation³⁵ that were female has remained relatively stable. The proportion of female admissions to probation increased from 16% in 1999/00 to 20% in 2002/03, and decreased slightly to 19% in 2003/04 (see Text table 6).

Text table 6

Admissions of young persons to probation, by sex, 1999/00 to 2003/04			
Year	Admissions		
	Total ¹	Male	Female
	N	%	
1999/00	13,445	84	16
2000/01	13,846	82	18
2001/02	14,635	82	18
2002/03	13,403	80	20
2003/04	10,856	81	19

1. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

New YCJA sentences

The scope of community corrections has been broadened under the YCJA, with the addition of new community supervised sentences, including deferred custody and supervision and the intensive support and supervision program (ISSP).³⁶ As well, the YCJA introduced a mandatory final one-third period of community supervision as part of most custody and supervision orders (s.42 (2)(n), YCJA).

Deferred custody allows a young person to serve a custody sentence in the community under a number of strict conditions. The availability of this new sentence may have contributed to the decline in sentenced custody admissions. Similar to conditional sentences for adults, any breach of conditions may result in the young person being sent to custody. In 2003/04, there were 1,077 admissions to deferred custody.

The ISSP provides closer monitoring and support than probation. This is an optional program, meaning that it may not be implemented in some jurisdictions. Jurisdictions which

30. See Footnote 9.

31. See Footnote 10.

32. See Footnote 11.

33. See Footnote 12.

34. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

35. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

36. For more information see the Department of Justice Canada website (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca>) "YCJA Explained", accessed on November 21, 2005.

have not implemented this program may instead rely on a higher level of supervision of probation to meet some of the objectives of ISSP.³⁷ This optional program was implemented in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. Four jurisdictions (Quebec, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories) were able to report ISSP data in 2003/04. Combined there were a total of 106 admissions in those four jurisdictions.

As already stated, the community portion of a custody and supervision order is meant to allow a smoother transition from custody to a full re-integration in the community. It requires that a youth serve the last one-third of a custody and supervision order under community supervision. The community portion of a custody and supervision order had the largest number of admissions of all new community supervision programs in 2003/04 (2,716) (see Text table 7).

Text table 7

Admissions of young persons to the YCJA new community sentences, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Admissions		
	Community portion of a custody sentence	Deferred custody and supervision	Intensive support and supervision
Total	2,716	1,077	106
Newfoundland & Labrador	67	x	..
Prince Edward Island	24	..	...
Nova Scotia	44	73	..
New Brunswick ¹	128	111	..
Quebec	..	69	49
Ontario	1,864	449	...
Manitoba	193	112	...
Saskatchewan	..	..	...
Alberta ²	366	263	52
British Columbia	..	..	..
Yukon	..	..	5
Northwest Territories	20	x	x
Nunavut	10	..	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

x suppressed to meet the requirements of the Statistics Act

1. Data have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata.

2. Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of counts for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from microdata supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally.

Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Average counts

In 2003/04, an average of 1,340 young persons were in sentenced custody on any given day in Canada. This included 720 young persons in secure custody and 620 in open custody. On average, there were also 740 young persons held on remand and about 21,330 young persons on probation.

Largest incarceration rate decrease in the last decade

Although the incarceration rate³⁸ has declined every year since 1994/95, it fell to 8.8 per 10,000 in 2003/04, a 29% decline from the previous year – the largest decline in the last 10 years and a 55% decrease since 1994/95 (see Text table 8).

All jurisdictions reported a decrease in the incarceration rate. Prince Edward Island reported a 49% decrease in the incarceration rate to 6.1 young persons in custody per 10,000 youth population, whereas Saskatchewan reported a 17% decrease. In 2003/04, British Columbia had the lowest incarceration rate of all reporting jurisdictions, 4.7 young persons in custody per 10,000 youth population. Saskatchewan reported the highest incarceration rate (28.2) among provinces.

Sentenced custody count decreases

From 1999/00 to 2002/03, the average daily count of youth in sentenced custody generally declined. In 1999/00 there were, on average, 3,200 youths in sentenced custody. By 2002/03, the average count of youths in sentenced custody declined to 2,700. In 2003/04, an average of 1,340 young persons were in sentenced custody on any given day in Canada, a decline of 50% from 2002/03 (see Figure 10).

The rate of young persons in sentenced custody decreased from 14.1 per 10,000 youth population in 1994/95 to 10.6 in 2002/03, it then declined by half in 2003/04 – to 5.4 (see Table 6).

From 2002/03 to 2003/04, the average daily count of young persons in sentenced custody decreased in all jurisdictions, although this decrease was quite variable. This decrease ranged from 24% in Saskatchewan to 68% in Ontario.

Slight decline in the number of youth on remand

The average number of young people aged 12 to 17 held on remand also declined in the implementation year of the YCJA, but to a lesser extent than sentenced custody. In 2003/04, there was an average of 420 young persons³⁹ held on remand on any given day in Canada, compared to 460 in 2002/03.

The rate of young persons on remand in 2003/04 was 2.0 per 10,000 youth population – a decrease of 20% from 2002/03. The rate of youth on remand ranged from 1.1 per 10,000 youth population in Prince Edward Island and Quebec to 9.0 in Manitoba and 14.8 in Nunavut (see Table 6).

Probation counts also decline

On any given day in 2003/04, there were about 21,330 young persons on probation. Compared to 2002/03, probation counts were down almost 20%.

With the exception of increases in 1995/96 and 1997/98, probation rates had been declining gradually during the previous decade (see Text table 9), as the rates of youths being charged by police and convicted by the courts were dropping.

37. See Calverley, D. & K. Beattie, 2005. 'Community Corrections in Canada, 2004.' Catalogue no. 85-567-XIE. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

38. The incarceration rate is the average daily number of young persons in custody per 10,000 youths aged 12 to 17 in the population.

39. Excludes Ontario.

Text table 8

Incarceration rates of young persons per 10,000 youth population, 1994/95 to 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Incarceration rate ¹									
	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Total²	19.6	18.7	18.0	17.2	16.6	15.4	14.3	13.4	12.4	8.8
Newfoundland & Labrador	26.9	26.0	28.1	24.0	22.9	21.4	20.6	22.1	24.2	12.8
Prince Edward Island	30.1	29.1	33.0	23.1	18.8	17.9	14.8	13.9	12.2	6.1
Nova Scotia	22.5	22.9	23.0	19.5	19.5	18.0	18.4	15.9	17.0	10.0
New Brunswick	31.3	31.4	31.1	25.6	23.2	23.5	24.1	21.5	18.1	12.7
Quebec	11.2	10.5	8.8	9.6	9.1	8.7	8.1	7.7	7.2	5.0
Ontario	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manitoba	31.6	30.1	32.8	32.5	31.0	30.1	27.9	26.4	25.5	19.7
Saskatchewan	36.9	36.9	37.3	39.6	41.0	36.2	35.6	35.3	34.1	28.2
Alberta	27.0	24.4	22.3	18.9	17.8	16.4	14.4	13.5	11.8	8.3
British Columbia	14.2	13.5	13.0	12.2	11.2	10.2	9.1	7.9	6.7	4.7
Yukon	48.5	56.4	56.2	63.6	50.4	46.8	30.5	24.3	21.1	13.8
Northwest Territories ³	185.7	142.9	157.3	174.4	110.7	157.0	134.1	136.0	109.4	60.0
Nunavut ⁴	...	...	...	...	...	..	35.4	16.8	37.9	27.4

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. The incarceration rate is the average daily counts of remand, secure and open custody per 10,000 youths aged 12 to 17 in the population.

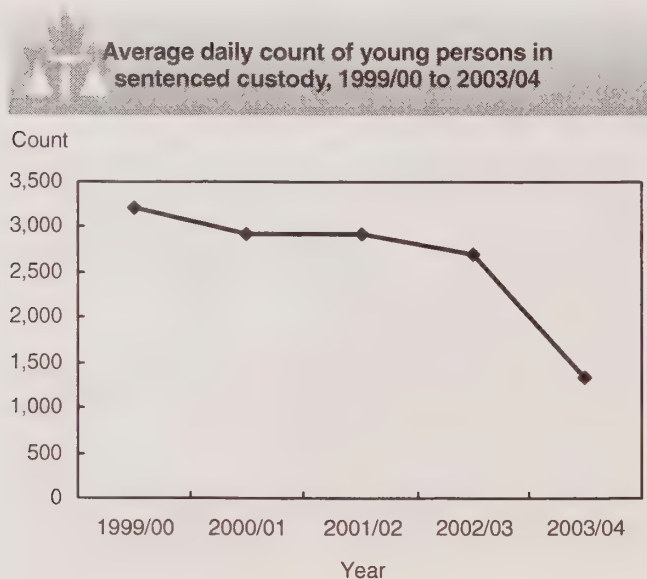
2. National figures excludes Ontario and Nunavut for all reference years.

3. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

4. Nunavut data for 1999/00 are unavailable. Prior to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, data for this territory are included as part of the Northwest Territories, therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Sources: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; and Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Figure 10



Note: Excludes Nunavut.

Sources: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

In 2003/04, the probation rate was 87.7 young persons per 10,000 young persons in the population,⁴⁰ 20% lower than in the previous year.

With the exception of Quebec, which remained stable, the rate of young persons on probation declined in all reporting jurisdictions. Among the jurisdictions which reported a decline, there were variations in the percent of declines reported, ranging from 7.6% in Nova Scotia to 28.3% in British Columbia.

Expanded community supervision under the YCJA

As noted earlier, the YCJA introduced a number of new community sentences, including deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision program (ISSP) and the community portion of all custody sentences. Although the new sentences began to be used soon after the implementation of the YCJA, the last three months (January to March 2004) of the 2003/04 fiscal year are more reflective of the frequency of their actual use in the correctional system.

During the last three months of the fiscal year 2003/04, there were on average, about 400 young people in the community on deferred custody and supervision.

40. Excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Text table 9

Probation rate per 10,000 youth population, 1994/95 to 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Probation rate ¹									
	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Total²	122.7	128.8	126.6	132.0	130.4	122.8	107.7	114.5	109.1	87.7
Newfoundland & Labrador	222.3	230.9	240.3	226.1	217.5	201.1	184.4	182.7	184.5	158.9
Prince Edward Island	396.8	311.6	266.1	249.1	222.3	166.9	144.3	128.6	122.6	108.7
Nova Scotia	192.7	212.5	198.0	188.6	178.1	167.8	147.3	128.2	116.5	107.7
New Brunswick	182.7	197.6	188.5	187.0	167.0	155.1	...	131.7	141.3	111.9
Quebec	56.2	61.6	59.7	85.0	87.3	89.6	88.8	100.4	93.8	93.8
Ontario ³	320.9	235.0	307.6	308.5	306.6	191.7	175.5	201.7	99.3	79.3
Manitoba	186.6	207.6	212.1	197.5	206.8	196.6	202.1	205.3	203.7	177.5
Saskatchewan	169.9	174.2	182.8	194.5	208.6	203.9	188.8	190.3	192.7	164.7
Alberta	128.8	134.8	134.4	127.2	122.6	110.3	106.7	101.9	95.4	76.7
British Columbia ⁴	153.9	152.2	144.0	134.9	128.0	110.7	84.9 ^r	81.9	75.2	53.9
Yukon	323.4	436.3	473.9	445.1	379.6	321.2	227.0	159.6	116.0	93.6
Northwest Territories ⁵	1282.4	785.9	784.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nunavut ⁶	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	44.8	..	47.9

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. The probation rate is the averaged month-end counts of probation per 10,000 youth population.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, probation excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for all reference years, and New Brunswick for 2000/01.

3. Data not available for 12 to 15 year olds in 2002/03. Caution is advised when making provincial/territorial comparisons.

4. Due to system changes in 1999/00, British Columbia does not have historically comparable data before April 2000. The 1999/00 data cannot be compared to 2000/01 data.

5. Data from 1994/95 to 1996/97 includes Nunavut data.

6. Nunavut data for 1999/00 and 2000/01 are unavailable. Prior to the creation of Nunavut in 1999, data for this territory are included as part of the Northwest Territories.

Sources: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

For 2003/04, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon were able to report on ISSP. During the last three months of the fiscal year 2003/04, there were 190 young people in these jurisdictions on ISSPs on any given day.

During the last three months of 2003/04, there were 300 young people in the community on any given day, serving the community portion of their custody and supervision orders.

The implementation of the YCJA has resulted in a large decline in the number of youth supervised in the formal system of correctional services, particularly in custody but also in the community.

Methodology

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on youth correctional services in Canada through three surveys: the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey, the Youth Key Indicator Report and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) which is currently being implemented and is intended to eventually replace the YCCS. Currently data from ICSS are presented in this *Juristat* for New Brunswick. The YCCS collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on young persons, between 12 and 17 years old under some form of

provincial or territorial correctional supervision. The ICSS collects person-level descriptive data and characteristics information on young persons in participating jurisdictions. Data from the Youth Key Indicator Report measure the average counts of young persons in custody (remand, secure, and open) and on probation. Jurisdictions submit monthly counts in aggregate format. Average counts include all young persons on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a youth correctional facility and are present at the time the count is taken by correctional facility officials. Average counts for young persons on probation include those on supervised probation at the end of the month.

The data are provided by the various provincial and territorial ministries, departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. As a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. These surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis.

Given that most of the data are reported in aggregate form, there are limits to the types of analyses or cross-tabulations that can be performed. For example, data such as median age of offenders and median sentence length for each province cannot be combined to calculate a national median for all offenders.

Inconsistencies in the Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS) Survey data have caused these data to be unavailable for the 2003/04 reference year.

Unit of analysis

Admissions data measure the movement of young offenders through admissions to different types of supervision. The following example provides an illustration of how admissions for one young offender are tabulated by the YCCS survey. Where a youth has been denied judicial interim release and held in remand until he or she was sentenced to serve a term of secure custody, followed by a term of open custody and probation, the YCCS counts:

e.g. remand + secure + open + probation (all served consecutively)

Admissions: 1 admission to remand
1 admission to secure custody
1 admission to open custody
1 admission to probation

Youth transferred from one facility to another while still under the same level of supervision are not counted as a new admission. As well, new admission counts exclude young offenders placed in secure custody as transfers from open custody facilities. These "administrative" transfers are for a short period of time, not to exceed 15 days, and are authorized by a senior correctional official. In addition, youth returning from a period of temporary absence are not included as a new admission.

Glossary of Terms

Aboriginal Identity: Indicates whether the youth is Aboriginal. Aboriginal identity includes North American, Métis and Inuit registered under the *Indian Act* and those that are non-registered. Please note that this variable is self-reported and data availability varies among jurisdictions.

Actual-in counts: Includes all young persons on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a facility and are present at the time the count is taken.

Admission: Refers to the young persons commencement of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation, ISSP, deferred custody and CPCS). For the YCCS survey, a new admission is counted each time an offender changes status.

Age: Refers to the age of the offender at the time of admission into a youth facility or community program.

Community Portion of a Custody and Supervision Order: Under the *YCJA* all custody sentences have a community supervision component attached. The community supervision portion can be up to half as long as the custodial period, and the periods combined must not exceed the maximum sentence length specified in the *YCJA*.

Custody: A status that requires the young offender to spend time in a designated correctional facility, either in secure custody, open custody or remand as ordered by the youth court.

Deferred Custody and Supervision: A deferred custody and supervision order allows a young person, to serve his/her custody sentence in the community. A deferred custody and supervision order is similar to a conditional sentence of imprisonment for adults.

Intensive Support and Supervision Program (ISSP): Similar to probation, the intensive support and supervision order is served in the community under conditions, but an ISSP provides closer monitoring and support than probation.

Month-end probation count: Data are an indication of the current monthly caseload of young offenders on supervised probation.

Most Serious Offence (Youth Custody and Community Services Survey): The YCCS survey categorizes "most serious offence" (MSO) according to the offence classification scheme currently being used by the Youth Court Survey. Offence types are categorized from most to least serious, as follows: violent, drug related, property, other *Criminal Code*, *YOAYCJA*, and provincial/municipal or other federal offences. The MSO categories include the following:

1. **Violent offences:** include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion. Violent offences involve the use or threatened use of violence against a person. Robbery is considered a violent offence because unlike other theft offences, it involves the use or threat of violence.
2. **Drug related offences:** include offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act* such as importing/exporting narcotics, trafficking in narcotics, possession of narcotics, cultivation, trafficking in drugs, and possession of drugs.
3. **Property offences:** include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief. Property offences involve unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person.
4. **Other Criminal Code offences:** include offences such as prostitution, impaired operation of a motor vehicle, escape custody, failure to appear, disorderly conduct, soliciting, and offences against the administration of justice.
5. **YOAYCJA offences:** include offences such as failure to comply with a court ordered disposition, and contempt against youth court.
6. **Provincial/Territorial, Municipal and Other Federal offences:** include offences such as provincial liquor offences, provincial/territorial traffic violations, violations of municipal by-laws, and violations of other federal statutes such as offences under the *Income Tax Act* and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Open custody: Open custody as “custody in (a) a community residential centre, group home, childcare institution, or forest or wilderness camp or (b) any like place or facility”. A facility is considered “open” when there is minimal use of security devices or perimeter security. The extent to which facilities are “open” varies across jurisdictions.

Probation/supervised probation: A common type of community-based disposition, where the offender is placed under the supervision of a probation officer or other designated person. This includes both supervised and unsupervised probation.

Release: Refers to the completion of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation). For the YCCS survey, a new release is counted each time an offender changes status.

Remand (Pre-trial detention): To hold a young person temporarily in custody, pursuant to a Remand Warrant, while awaiting trial or sentencing, or prior to commencement of a custodial disposition.

Secure Custody: Under the *Young Offenders Act* a facility is considered secure when youths are detained by security devices, including those which operate with full perimeter security features and/or where youths are under constant observation. The extent to which facilities are “secure” varies across jurisdictions.

Sentenced Custody: Refers to secure and open custody combined.

Sentence Length: This refers to the aggregate sentence or total amount of days a young person is ordered to serve under the *Young Offenders Act*. The specific amount of days must be for an uninterrupted period of time during which the youth

is under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director. For multiple *custodial sentences* (i.e., secure and open custody), if dispositions are concurrent then the sentence length is the longest sentence; if the dispositions are consecutive then the sentence length is the sum of all custodial sentences; and if dispositions are both concurrent and consecutive then the aggregate sentence is the sum of both types as calculated above.

Time Served: Refers to the aggregate time served or total amount of days a young person spent upon completion of an uninterrupted period of time within a specific status during which time the youth was under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director.

Young Person: A person who is twelve years of age or older, but less than eighteen years of age, at the time of committing an offence.

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Table 1

Admissions of young persons to custody, 1999/00, 2002/03 and 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Remand					Secure custody					Open custody				
	Admissions			% change of admissions		Admissions			% change of admissions		Admissions			% change of admissions	
				1999/00 to 2002/03	2002/03 to 2003/04				1999/00 to 2002/03	2002/03 to 2003/04				1999/00 to 2002/03	2002/03 to 2003/04
	1999/00	2002/03	2003/04			1999/00	2002/03	2003/04			1999/00	2002/03	2003/04		
Total	14,520	14,317	12,414	-1	-13	5,071	4,312	2,472	-15	-43	5,117	3,985	2,183	-22	-45
Newfoundland & Labrador	177	285	202	61	-29	160	201	108	26	-46	198	148	76	-25	-49
Prince Edward Island	37	43	17	16	-60	30	37	11	23	-70	20	41	8	105	-80
Nova Scotia	316	205	188	-35	-8	45	33	20	-27	-39	364	282	140	-23	-50
New Brunswick ¹	263	261 ^r	295	-32	...	269	170 ^r	125	-37	...	183	159	119	-13	...
Quebec	2,271	1,676	1,487	-26	-11	1,285	876	651	-32	-26	1,058	696	415	-34	-40
Ontario															
Ontario 12 to 15 year olds	..	..	..	...	...	1,749	..	406	...	...	2,618	..	525	...	...
Ontario 16 and 17 year olds	4,927	6,368	5,640	29	-11	1,601	1,601	812	0	-49	1,570	1,507	709	-4	-53
Manitoba	1,858	1,966	1,539	6	-22	202	223	113	10	-49	377	364	261	-3	-28
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	...	...	301	309	239	3	...	344	347	256	1	...
Alberta ²	2,484	2,225	2,016	-10	-9	1,005	845	497	-16	-41	638	389	239	-39	-39
British Columbia	2,377	1,522	1,301	-36	-15	649	448	242	-31	-46	703	485	315	-31	-35
Yukon	77	50	23	-35	-54	36	11	x	-69	...	41	18	8	-56	-56
Northwest Territories	73	27	24	-63	-11	94	48	18	-49	-63	189	73	20	-61	-73
Nunavut	..	20	25	...	25	..	12	13	...	8	..	18	11	...	-39

Note: Total excludes New Brunswick, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Nunavut.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1 Data have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata.

2. Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of counts for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from microdata supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

**Distribution of young persons admitted to remand, sentenced custody and probation,
by most serious offence, 2003/04**

Jurisdiction	Remand				Sentenced custody (secure and open)				Probation			
	Violent ²	Property ³	Other 'Criminal Code' ⁴	Other offences ⁵	Violent ²	Property ³	Other 'Criminal Code' ⁴	Other offences ⁵	Violent ²	Property ³	Other 'Criminal Code' ⁴	Other offences ⁵
	%											
Total¹	30	31	16	23	25	37	12	25	35	42	10	13
Newfoundland and Labrador	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	41	12	47	0	32	32	37	0	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	28	27	29	17	22	33	17	20	32	39	18	12
New Brunswick ⁶	29	29	29	13	33	29	22	16	37	45	7	12
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario ⁷	29	35	8	28	29	40	5	29	33	44	6	17
Manitoba	61	33	5	1	67	33	1	0	50	39	8	3
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta ⁸	7	23	34	36	11	24	20	45	36	47	10	7
British Columbia	33	26	37	3	29	34	35	3	34	28	35	4
Yukon	26	57	13	4	9	64	9	18	15	35	15	35
Northwest Territories	38	50	13	0	50	42	6	3	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	44	52	4	0	38	63	0	0	..	..	..	..

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

.. not available for a specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Totals exclude Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

2. Violent offences include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion.

3. Property offences include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief.

4. Other 'Criminal Code' offences include offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct.

5. Other offences include drug-related offences, YOA/YCJA and other federal offences, and provincial/municipal offences.

6. Data for New Brunswick were populated using the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS).

7. Due to the unavailability of data, remand excludes Ontario 12 to 15 year olds.

8. Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of counts for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from microdata supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Aboriginal young persons admitted to correctional services, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Sentenced custody								Aboriginal youth % of youth population
	Remand		Open custody		Secure custody		Probation		
	Total Aboriginal	% Aboriginal	Total Aboriginal	% Aboriginal	Total Aboriginal	% Aboriginal	Total Aboriginal	% Aboriginal	
	%								
Total	3,029	27	775	30	700	27	3,132	17	5
Newfoundland & Labrador	6	3	6	9	8	8	10	4	5
Prince Edward Island	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	1
Nova Scotia	11	6	8	8	0	0	47	6	3
New Brunswick ¹	15	5	5	4	9	7	33	8	3
Quebec	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	2
Ontario									
Ontario 12 to 15 year olds	..	...	32	6	6	1	175	3	2
Ontario 16 and 17 year olds	609	11	70	10	129	16	508	8	2
Manitoba	1,092	71	194	82	76	77	440	56	19
Saskatchewan	..	...	208	84	178	75	841	65	19
Alberta ²	779	39	104	44	184	37	622	29	8
British Columbia	450	36	111	35	75	32	441	29	7
Yukon	21	91	8	100	x	...	15	83	26
Northwest Territories	21	88	20	100	15	83	..	...	63
Nunavut	25	100	11	100	13	100	..	...	95

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

1. Data have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata.

2. Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of counts for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from microdata supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

Sources: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Releases from remand, secure, and open custody, by time served, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Duration by time served												
	Remand					Secure custody				Open custody			
	Total	1 week or less	> 1 week to 1 month	> 1 month to 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year and greater	Total	> 1 month or less	> 1 to 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year and greater	Total	1 month or less	> 1 to 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year and greater
	N	%				N	%			N	%		
Total	11,075	52	26	18	2	2,468	38	47	15	2,667	35	51	14
Newfoundland and Labrador	..	...	...	...	...	124	10	71	19	78	18	77	5
Prince Edward Island	17	65	35	0	0	11	27	73	0	8	88	0	13
Nova Scotia	170	65	22	12	0 ^s	17	24	71	6	102	33	58	9
New Brunswick ¹	289	40	43	16	0 ^s	131	35	47	18	149	19	56	24
Quebec	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Ontario ²	5,723	50	29	19	3	1,330	35	50	16	1,419	38	48	14
Manitoba	1,431	56	20	22	1	129	18	58	24	256	19	64	18
Saskatchewan	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Alberta ³	2,003	58	26	14	1	506	53	37	10	276	21	62	17
British Columbia	1,372	51	33	15	1	207	55	34	11	363	58	36	7
Yukon	24	46	25	29	0	x	...	...	...	6	33	67	0
Northwest Territories	24	8	63	29	0	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Nunavut	22	5	23	68	0 ^s	13	31	69	0	10	20	70	10

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

.. not available for any specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

1. Data have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata.

2. Ontario remand data excludes 12 to 15 year olds.

3. Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of counts for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from micro-data supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Releases from probation, by time served, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Duration by time served					
	Probation					
	Total	1 month or less	>1 to 6 months	>6 months to 1 year	>1 to 2 years	More than 2 years
	N			%		
Total¹	21,264	1	10	45	33	11
Newfoundland and Labrador	55	0	55	36	5	4
Prince Edward Island	197	...	...	...	...	...
Nova Scotia	..	...	...	...	...	...
New Brunswick ²	703	0 ^s	16	43	31	10
Quebec	..	...	...	...	...	...
Ontario	15,048	1	5	49	34	11
Manitoba	1,179	1	4	12	47	36
Saskatchewan	..	...	...	...	...	...
Alberta ³	1,745	0 ^s	23	50	25	2
British Columbia	2,534	5	28	32	29	6
Yukon	..	...	...	...	...	...
Northwest Territories	..	...	...	...	...	...
Nunavut	..	...	...	...	...	...

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

.. not available for any specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island.

2. Data have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata.

3. Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of counts for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from microdata supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Young persons incarcerated in remand, secure, and open custody per 10,000 youth population, 1994/95, 2002/03 and 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Remand			Total sentenced custody			Secure custody			Open custody		
	1994/95	2002/03	2003/04	1994/95	2002/03	2003/04	1994/95	2002/03	2003/04	1994/95	2002/03	2003/04
Total	3.6	2.5	2.0	14.1	10.6	5.4	6.9	5.0	3.0	7.3	5.7	2.4
Newfoundland & Labrador	1.4	3.0	2.1	25.5	21.4	10.7	11.1	9.4	6.7	14.3	11.7	4.0
Prince Edward Island	3.3	1.6	1.1	26.7	11.4	5.0	13.4	5.7	2.7	13.4	4.9	2.4
Nova Scotia	2.3	2.9	2.5	20.3	14.0	7.5	6.0	2.8	1.6	14.3	11.3	6.0
New Brunswick	2.3	1.7	2.1	28.8	16.4	10.5	10.1	7.5	5.1	18.7	8.8	5.3
Quebec	2.0	1.2	1.1	9.2	5.7	3.8	4.8	3.5	2.6	4.4	2.2	1.3
Ontario ¹	..	..	..	11.4	12.9	4.2	6.1	5.6	2.2	5.3	7.4	2.0
Manitoba	8.8	10.4	9.0	22.8	15.1	10.3	10.4	6.1	4.2	12.4	9.1	6.1
Saskatchewan	6.0	7.8	7.9	30.9	26.3	20.3	16.1	15.3	12.4	14.8	10.8	7.9
Alberta	6.7	3.5	3.1	20.3	8.3	5.2	10.7	4.5	3.0	9.6	3.9	2.2
British Columbia	3.1	2.1	1.9	11.1	4.7	2.8	4.3	2.1	1.1	6.8	2.6	1.6
Yukon	16.2	3.5	3.6	32.3	17.6	10.0	32.3	3.5	3.1	4.0	14.1	6.9
Northwest Territories ²	...	9.7	8.3	...	99.6	51.8	...	32.1	24.0	...	68.0	27.7
Nunavut	...	13.5	14.8	...	27.0	12.6	...	14.0	5.9	...	13.5	6.7

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Ontario secure and open custody data for 2002/03 include estimates for 12 to 15 year olds. Ontario is excluded from the remand incarceration rates.

2. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/00 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Sources: Corrections Key Indicator Report, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; Population Estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada

by Jodi-Anne Brzozowski, Andrea Taylor-Butts and Sara Johnson



Highlights

- According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), Aboriginal people were three times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to experience a violent victimization (319 versus 101 incidents per 1,000 population). This is consistent with findings from the 1999 GSS, the last time the victimization survey was conducted.
- Violent incidents were much more likely to be committed against younger Aboriginal people than they were against their older counterparts. Those aged 15 to 34 years were nearly two and a half times more likely to experience a violent victimization compared to those who were 35 years and older (461 incidents versus 192 incidents per 1,000 population).
- Violent incidents committed against Aboriginal people were more likely to be perpetrated by someone who was known to the victim (56%), such as a relative, friend, neighbour or acquaintance, compared to violent incidents committed against non-Aboriginal victims (41%). Aboriginal people were victimized by a stranger in 25% of all violent incidents, compared to 45% of incidents committed against non-Aboriginal victims.
- Consistent with what was found in 1999, 21% of Aboriginal people reported having experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by a spouse in the 5 years preceding the 2004 survey. This compares to 6% of non-Aboriginal people who experienced spousal violence over the same time period.
- Aboriginal people are much more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Aboriginal people. Between 1997 and 2000, the average homicide rate for Aboriginal people was 8.8 per 100,000 population, almost seven times higher than that for non-Aboriginal people (1.3 per 100,000 population).
- Between 1997 and 2000, Aboriginal people were 10 times more likely to be accused of homicide than were non-Aboriginal people (11.2 accused persons per 100,000 Aboriginal population compared to 1.1 accused persons per 100,000 non-Aboriginal population).
- On-reserve crime rates in 2004 were about three times higher than rates in the rest of Canada (28,900 per 100,000 population on reserve compared to 8,500 per 100,000 population in the rest of Canada). The difference was even greater for violent crime, with an on-reserve rate that was eight times the violent crime rate of the rest of the country (7,108 compared to 953 per 100,000 population).
- Both for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults, the number of admissions to sentenced custody decreased between 1994/1995 and 2003/2004. This decrease was more substantial for non-Aboriginal adults, resulting in an increase in the proportionate representation of Aboriginal people among sentenced custody admissions over the same time period.
- In 2003/2004, as compared to their representation in the adult and youth populations, Aboriginal adults and youth were highly represented in admissions to all types of correctional services. Furthermore, trends in both adult and youth corrections have shown that the proportional representation of Aboriginal people among females admitted to correctional services has been greater than that for males.



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Introduction

Aboriginal peoples have been the focus of extensive research over the last several decades. While studies have varied in scope, there has been a collective understanding among researchers that Aboriginal peoples live under generally different historic, social and economic conditions. This unique social context has been found to play a part in an increased likelihood of contact with the criminal justice system and has prompted legislators to recognize that Aboriginal peoples require distinct consideration. In the context of criminal justice, a number of policies have already been developed and implemented. Nevertheless, the relevance and effectiveness of these policies has been difficult to assess as various reports, commissions and enquiries still point to a lack of reliable and comprehensive data on the nature and extent of Aboriginal victimization and offending.

While there are currently limited comprehensive national data sources examining the issues surrounding Aboriginal peoples in the justice system, there have been increasing efforts to quantify the nature of Aboriginal victimization and offending. Using data from victimization, police and corrections surveys, this *Juristat* explores the involvement of Aboriginal peoples in the criminal justice system. The report finds that Aboriginal people are much more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be victims of violent crime and spousal violence. Aboriginal people are also highly overrepresented as offenders charged in police-reported homicide incidents and those admitted into the correctional system. Furthermore, crime rates are notably higher on reserve compared to crime rates in the rest of Canada.

This *Juristat* also examines particular factors which could be related to the high levels of representation in the criminal justice system, as well as information on Aboriginal peoples' fear of crime and their perceptions of the justice system. Finally, their experiences with discrimination are presented, along with a description of some of the programs and services that have been developed as a response to the specialized needs of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system.

Text box 1

Defining the Aboriginal population¹

There are different ways to represent the Aboriginal population of Canada. For the purposes of this *Juristat*, the analysis will focus on the Aboriginal identity population, according to the Census of Population definition.²

This population includes those persons who, in the 2001 Census, reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, as well as persons who identified with more than one group, and persons who did not identify with an Aboriginal group, but who were Registered or Treaty Indians or members of an Indian band.

Across all national justice-sector surveys, Aboriginal identity is the desired method of identification, and the measures of Aboriginal identity are generally consistent with the Census of Population definition.² However, some police-reported Aboriginal data within this report may have been determined based on visual assessment.³ In addition, analysis of Aboriginal people is based only on data where the Aboriginal identity/status of the victim and/or the offender is known.

It is recognized that those who identify themselves as Aboriginal people are characterized by diversity in their culture, language, legal status and the various geographic settings in which they live. However, due to sample size restrictions as well as pre-established survey categories, analysis in this report is limited to considering Aboriginal people as one group.

See notes at end of text.

The Aboriginal population

According to the 2001 Census, 976,000 people in Canada identified themselves as Aboriginal people. This population represents 609,000 (or 62%) who identified as North American Indian, 292,000 (or 30%) who identified as Métis, 45,000 (or 5%) who identified as Inuit, and 30,000 who identified with more than one group or did not identify as Aboriginal persons but were Registered or Treaty Indians, or members of an Indian band (Statistics Canada, 2003).

Those who identified as Aboriginal persons represented 3.3% of the nation's total population and it is anticipated that the Aboriginal population could grow to 4.1% of Canada's population by 2017⁴ (Statistics Canada, 2005).

The context of Aboriginal overrepresentation as victims and offenders

Researchers have offered several explanations for the high levels of representation of Aboriginal people as victims and offenders. Some reports point to the conflict between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures (Hartnagel, 2000), while others suggest that overrepresentation can be explained by discrimination within the criminal justice system (Roberts and Doob, 1997).

One of the most common and comprehensive approaches to understanding Aboriginal overrepresentation has been to examine Aboriginal crime in a broader social context, by exploring a link between the individual life experiences, as well as the social and economic inequalities of Aboriginal people⁵ (Laprairie, 1983). This approach, which has been applied to crime and victimization in general, considers a number of individual, economic and social factors, which can alone or in combination, elevate the risk of criminal offending and victimization. Some of these factors, which are all more common among the Aboriginal population, include: being young, having low educational attainment, being unemployed, having low income⁶, being a member of a lone-parent family⁷, living in crowded conditions⁸, and having high residential mobility.⁹

Aboriginal people younger on average

The Aboriginal population is relatively young compared to the non-Aboriginal population. In 2001, the median¹⁰ age of those who self-identified as Aboriginal people was 24.7 years, compared to the non-Aboriginal population, whose median age was 37.7 years (Statistics Canada, 2003). Furthermore, in 2001, Aboriginal persons 15 to 24 years of age represented 17% of the total Aboriginal population, compared to 13% of the total non-Aboriginal population.¹¹

A person's age has been found to be one of the strongest risk factors for both offending and victimization. For example, according to a non-representative sample of 120 police services reporting to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey in 2004, while persons in the 15 to 24 year age group represented only 14% of the Canadian population, they accounted for 43% of those accused of property crimes and 32% of those accused of violent crimes. Furthermore, in

2004, the violent victimization rate for Canadians aged 15 to 24 years was the highest among all age groups (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005).

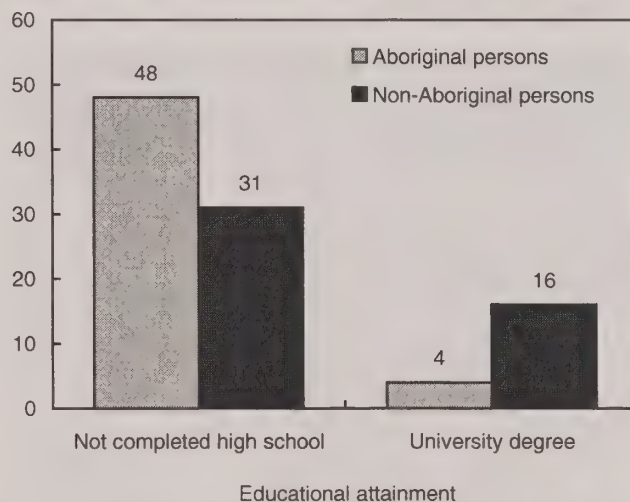
Educational attainment lower among Aboriginal people¹²

While the overall educational attainment of Aboriginal people has increased in recent years, there remain substantial disparities in levels of education between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations. For example, according to data from the 2001 Census, 48% of the Aboriginal population aged 15 years and older in Canada had not completed high school, compared to 31% of the non-Aboriginal population. Furthermore, only 4% of the Aboriginal population had acquired a university degree, compared to 16% of the non-Aboriginal population (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Aboriginal people have lower levels of educational attainment, 2001

% of population aged 15 years and older



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population.

Unemployment rates higher, incomes lower among Aboriginal people¹³

Unemployment rates tend to be significantly higher among Aboriginal people. In 2001, the rate of unemployment was almost one in five (19%) for the Aboriginal population, compared to a rate of 7% for the non-Aboriginal population.

Since an individual's income is largely dependent on factors such as his/her level of educational attainment and employment status, it is not surprising that Aboriginal people tend also to have lower incomes. In 2000,¹⁴ the median income from all sources of Aboriginal people was \$13,500, which was only 60% of the non-Aboriginal population's median income (\$22,400).¹⁵

Aboriginal children more likely to be members of a lone-parent family

Aboriginal children are significantly more likely to be members of a lone-parent family. In 2001, about 35% of Aboriginal children under the age of 15 lived in a lone-parent family, which was twice the proportion of non-Aboriginal children (17%) (Statistics Canada, 2003).

In large urban areas, Aboriginal children were almost as likely to live in a lone-parent family (46%) as they were with both parents (50%). In comparison, only 18% of non-Aboriginal children in urban areas lived with a single parent and 81% lived with both parents. Among those Aboriginal children living on reserves, 32% lived in lone-parent families, while 65% lived with both parents (Statistics Canada, 2003).

Aboriginal people in off-reserve areas more likely to live in crowded conditions¹⁶

According to the 2001 Census, the homes of Aboriginal people living in off-reserve areas in Canada were more crowded¹⁷ than those of the general population. About 17% of Aboriginal people living in off-reserve areas lived in crowded conditions, compared to only 7% of the total population of Canada (O'Donnell and Tait, 2003).

Aboriginal children under the age of 15 were almost twice as likely as all children in Canada to live in crowded conditions. One-quarter of Aboriginal children in off-reserve areas were considered to be living in crowded conditions compared to 13% for children overall (O'Donnell and Tait, 2003).

Aboriginal people more mobile than non-Aboriginal people

Generally speaking, Aboriginal people are much more mobile than non-Aboriginal people, which can pose particular challenges in planning and implementing social programs. In the 12 months preceding the 2001 Census, 22% of Aboriginal people moved, compared to 14% of non-Aboriginal people. Approximately two-thirds of those who moved remained in the same community, while the remaining one third changed communities (Statistics Canada, 2003).

Among Aboriginal people, there appears to be an overall movement away from rural and non-reserve areas to reserves and large urban centres. In the 12-month period before the May 15, 2001 Census, while rural, off-reserve areas incurred a net loss due to migration of 4,300 Aboriginal people, there were net gains in Aboriginal people to the reserves (almost 4,000) and large urban areas (1,265). The trend in movement to reserves and large urban centres has been occurring since 1981 (Statistics Canada, 2003).

Aboriginal people as victims of crime¹⁸

According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS)^{19,20,21,22,23}, approximately 40% of Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over reported having been victimized at least once in the 12 months preceding the survey. This figure was not statistically different from what was found in 1999, the last time the victimization survey was conducted.

Text box 2

Challenges in collecting data on Aboriginal people and the justice system

The need for reliable and complete data on Aboriginal people who come into contact with the criminal justice system has been well recognized, particularly over the last two decades. In 2005, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics documented the status of national data on Aboriginal victims and offenders, as well as the challenges in collecting and reporting these data (Kong and Beattie, 2005). The report also proposed a number of strategies which would improve the coverage and quality of Aboriginal data.

Administrative data sources

Currently, there are five surveys that collect administrative data on the Aboriginal status of individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system: three corrections-level surveys and two police-level surveys. To date, corrections-level data have been considered the most reliable, with high levels of response and coverage. As a result, most national level indicators on Aboriginal people in the justice system have been corrections-based.

While police-level surveys also collect information on the Aboriginal status of the accused and victim, there are a number of challenges associated with the collection of this information. For example, certain agencies may not collect or report information on the Aboriginal identity of the offender or victim for a number of reasons, including the collection of the information would contravene internal policy, the information is not needed for the agency's own purposes, or, personnel find it impractical or insensitive to ask individuals about their cultural background. As a result, some police services systematically do not report these data by classifying the Aboriginal identity of accused persons and victims as 'unknown'.

Furthermore, there have been no established standards or guidelines with respect to the identification of victims and offenders as Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. For instance, at the police level, the information on the Aboriginal status of the victim or the offender is collected through police observation, which is subject to error and is a method that lacks support by national Aboriginal groups.

Currently, the majority of respondent agencies that provide administrative data to surveys from criminal courts do not collect information on the Aboriginal status of the accused in their existing court information systems, nor do they consider it necessary for the purposes of court administration.

Additional data sources

Statistics Canada's General Social Survey on Victimization, a general population survey conducted every five years, is a source of national information on the experiences of Aboriginal people as victims of crime, their fear of crime and perceptions of the criminal justice system.

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics collects information from surveys on shelters for abused women and children and victim service agencies. Currently, while there is no information on the Aboriginal status of persons assisted, there is information on such things as culturally-sensitive programming for Aboriginal victims, and the number of agencies serving reserve areas.

Some of the suggested approaches to improve the quality of Canadian statistics on Aboriginal people in the justice system include these: gaining a better understanding of the positions of different Aboriginal groups on data collection and self-identification through consultation; developing a coordinated communication strategy with stakeholders to increase awareness and support for the collection of Aboriginal information; implementing national standards for defining and collecting Aboriginal identity and providing relevant education and training to data suppliers.

Results from the 2004 GSS also show that the proportion of Aboriginal people who reported having been victimized at least once in the previous year was much higher than the proportion of non-Aboriginal people who were victimized over the same time period (40% compared to 28%). Aboriginal people were also nearly twice as likely as their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be repeat victims of crime. Approximately 21% of the Aboriginal population reported being victimized two or more times in the previous 12 months, compared to 11% of the non-Aboriginal population. The differences in proportions for both single and multiple victimizations were comparable to those found in 1999.

Violent victimization rates against Aboriginal people unchanged

The GSS examines the prevalence of violence for three offences: sexual assault, robbery and physical assault. Similar to results from the 1999 GSS²⁴, in 2004, Aboriginal people experienced violent victimization at a rate that was about three times greater than that of non-Aboriginal people (319 versus 101 incidents per 1,000 population) (Figure 2). This difference is largely driven by the rate of physical assault, the most frequently occurring violent offence. Specifically, the physical assault rate was nearly three and a half times greater for Aboriginal victims than for non-Aboriginal victims (238 versus 71 incidents per 1,000 population).

Violent victimization rates highest for Aboriginal females and those who are young

Violent victimization rates for males and females differed, with Aboriginal women at a particularly high risk of violence compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts. The rate of

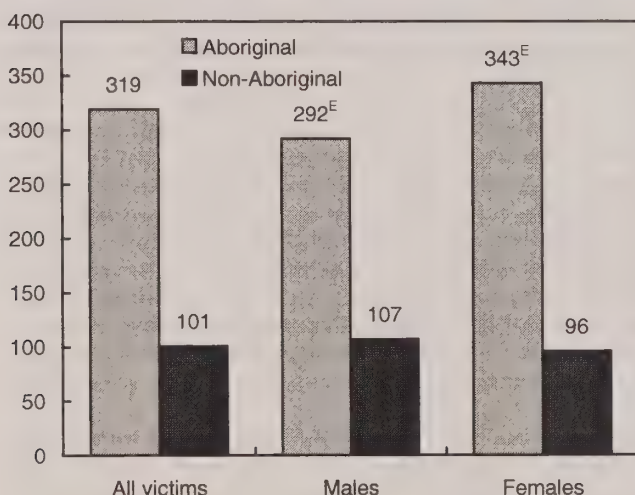
violence for Aboriginal females was 3.5 times higher than that for non-Aboriginal females (343 versus 96 incidents per 1,000 females). The pattern was similar for Aboriginal males, who had a rate of violent victimization that was almost 3 times higher than that of non-Aboriginal males (292 versus 107 incidents per 1,000 males) (Figure 2).

Research has consistently shown that within the general population, young people experience the highest levels of violent victimization (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005; Klaus and Rennison, 2002). According to the GSS, violent incidents were much more likely to be committed against younger Aboriginal people than they were against their older counterparts. Those aged 15 to 34 years were nearly two and a half times more likely to experience a violent victimization compared to those who were 35 years and older²⁵ (461 incidents versus 192 incidents per 1,000 population). While rates were much lower among both of the non-Aboriginal population age groups compared to their Aboriginal counterparts, those aged 15 to 34 years were 3 times more likely than the 35 years and older age group to be victims of a violent crime (182 incidents versus 61 incidents per 1,000 population).

Figure 2

Aboriginal people more likely to be victims of violent crime, 2004^{1,2}

Rate per 1,000 population aged 15 years and older



^E use with caution

1. Includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault.

2. Includes sexual assault, assault and robbery.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Text box 3

Multivariate analysis: Aboriginal identity a strong independent predictor of being a victim of violent crime

While simple one-way or two-way tabulations provide a profile of the characteristics that are associated with violent victimization, they do not take into account that some risk factors can be correlated with one another. For example, Aboriginal people are younger, on average, than non-Aboriginal people, and the resulting age difference can have an effect on victimization rates, given that younger people tend to have higher rates of victimization. One way to identify whether certain factors independently increase the odds of violence is to undertake multivariate analysis.

In this analysis, logistic regression models²⁶ were used to isolate the effect of selected factors on the dependent variable – whether or not a person had been the victim of at least one violent crime in the 12 months preceding the survey. Through the GSS, there are a number of measures that can be used to assess whether certain factors are related to the risk of violent crime. The factors that were used in this analysis include²⁷: Aboriginal identity, sex, age, marital status, income, education, main activity and urban or rural residency.

It was found that, similar to previous results (Brzozowski and Mihorean, 2002; Mihorean, 2001), when the effects of all other factors were controlled, the strongest predictor of violent victimization was being young. Those in the 15 to 24 age group were at a particularly high risk, with odds of violence that were over 6 times greater than those in the 55 and over age group (the comparison group). In addition, while the effects were not as strong as they were for the youngest age groups, being an Aboriginal person significantly increased the odds of violent victimization. In fact, when all other factors were held constant, the odds of being the victim of a violent crime were still about three times higher for an Aboriginal person than they were for a non-Aboriginal person. Additional factors that elevated the odds of violent victimization included being single and being unemployed.

See notes at end of text.

Profile of violent incidents committed against Aboriginal people²⁸

Perpetrators of violence often known to victims

Violent incidents committed against Aboriginal people were more likely to be perpetrated by someone who was known to the victim²⁹ (56%), such as a relative, friend, neighbour or acquaintance, compared to violence committed against non-Aboriginal victims (41%).³⁰ Aboriginal people were victimized by a stranger in 25% of all violent incidents which was much lower than the proportion of violent incidents committed against non-Aboriginal victims by strangers (45%).

Violence against Aboriginal people most likely to go unreported

Generally speaking, when a violent crime occurs, it is more likely that the police will not be notified (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005; Besserer and Trainor, 2000). Aboriginal victims of violent crime are no exception to this general tendency, despite their higher rates of violent victimization. According to the 2004 GSS, approximately 6 in 10 incidents of violent crime that were committed against Aboriginal people went unreported to the police, a figure which was comparable to the non-Aboriginal population,³¹ and unchanged from what was found in 1999.

Incidents most likely to occur in Aboriginal victim's home

Overall, violent incidents are about twice as likely to occur in a commercial or institutional establishment than in the victim's home or surrounding area (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005; Besserer and Trainor, 2000). Results from the GSS, however, show that incidents involving Aboriginal victims have not followed this pattern. In 2004, violent incidents committed against Aboriginal people were most likely to occur in or around the victim's home (34%), followed by a commercial or institutional establishment (26%). For non-Aboriginal victims, only 17% of violent incidents took place in or around their home, while 41% occurred in a commercial establishment. The difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims could partly be explained by the fact that Aboriginal people are more likely to be victimized by someone they know. Also, Aboriginal people are more likely to live in rural areas than non-Aboriginal people (40% versus 20%). By nature, rural areas are less likely to be surrounded by commercial establishments such as restaurants, bars, office buildings and shopping malls.

Weapon use and injury not common in violence against Aboriginal victims

Similar to the profile of violent incidents committed against non-Aboriginal victims, incidents involving Aboriginal victims did not commonly involve the use or presence of a weapon or result in injury to the victim. In 2004, the accused had a weapon in 30% of violent incidents committed against Aboriginal victims. Furthermore, Aboriginal victims suffered an injury in approximately 27% of violent incidents committed against them.

Alcohol or drug use related to violence

Many researchers have found that there is a strong link between alcohol or drug use and violence (Pernanen et al., 2002; Vanderburg et al., 1995). The GSS asked victims if they

felt the incident that was committed against them was related to the perpetrator's alcohol or drug use. Alcohol or drug use was a factor in about 6 in 10 incidents committed against Aboriginal victims, a figure that was not statistically different from incidents involving non-Aboriginal victims.

Aboriginal victims of spousal violence

In addition to being asked about their experiences with criminal victimization in general, respondents³² were asked a series of ten questions related to violent acts that had been committed by their current and/or previous spouses and common-law partners³³ ranging in seriousness from threats to sexual assaults and relating to offences that had occurred in the 12 months and 5 years preceding the survey.

Levels of spousal violence against Aboriginal people unchanged

According to results from the GSS, Aboriginal people experience much higher levels of spousal violence by current or ex-partners than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. This finding supports previous research suggesting that the prevalence of family violence is more extensive within Aboriginal communities (Lane et al., 2003; Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2001). Consistent with what was found in 1999³⁴, 21% of Aboriginal people reported having experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by a spouse in the 5 years preceding the 2004 survey. This compares to 6% of non-Aboriginal people who experienced spousal violence over the same time period, and translates to a level of Aboriginal spousal violence which is over three times greater than that for non-Aboriginal people.

Research suggests that violence in Aboriginal communities usually involves family members, with women being particularly vulnerable (Corrado, et al., 2004). In 2004, nearly one-quarter of Aboriginal females suffered some form of spousal violence in the five years preceding the survey (Figure 3). This proportion is about three and a half times greater than that for non-Aboriginal females (7%). Similarly, Aboriginal males were at increased risk, with 18% reporting some form of violence over the same time period, compared to 6% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

It has been well documented that overall levels of spousal violence are higher in previous relationships than in current unions (Mihorean, 2005; Pottie-Bunge and Locke, 2000). This finding also holds true for the Aboriginal population. In 2004, approximately 37% of Aboriginal people reported having experienced spousal violence by an ex-partner in the 5 years preceding the survey, compared to 18% of non-Aboriginal people. In contrast, 11% of Aboriginal people suffered violence at the hands of a current partner compared to 3% of non-Aboriginal people.

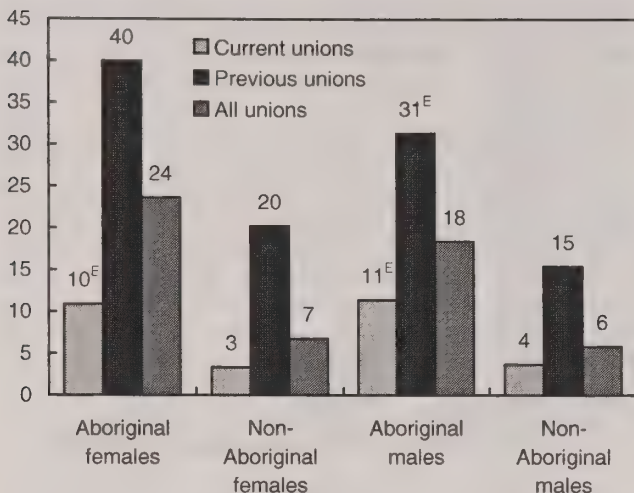
Nature and effects of spousal violence more severe for Aboriginal victims

Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were much more likely than non-Aboriginal victims to suffer the most severe forms of spousal violence, such as being beaten, choked, threatened with or had a gun or knife used against them, or sexually assaulted (41% versus 27%). The variation between

Figure 3

Aboriginal people at greatest risk of spousal violence, 2004^{1,2}

% of females and males



^E use with caution

1. Includes common-law partners.

2. Excludes people who refused to state their marital status.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal spousal victims of these same forms of violence was even greater when only considering female victims of spousal violence (54% of Aboriginal women compared to 37% of non-Aboriginal women).³⁵

According to the 2004 GSS, regardless of Aboriginal identity, about one-third of spousal violence victims reported spousal violence to the police and about one-third disclosed that their children had witnessed the violence. In other instances, however, details surrounding the violence varied between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims, often pointing to the more serious nature of spousal violence involving Aboriginal victims.

For example, Aboriginal victims of spousal violence were more likely to sustain injuries than non-Aboriginal victims.³⁶ Just under half (43%) of Aboriginal victims reported injuries, compared to 31% of non-Aboriginal victims. In some instances, the violence was so severe that the victim feared for his/her life. About one-third of Aboriginal spousal violence victims reported having feared for their lives, a proportion which was significantly higher than that reported by non-Aboriginal victims (22%).

Results from the 2004 GSS show that alcohol use is common during spousal violence incidents, particularly those involving Aboriginal victims. Approximately 48% of Aboriginal spousal violence victims reported that their partner had been drinking during the incidents, compared to 33% of non-Aboriginal victims.

Homicides involving Aboriginal victims³⁷

Not only are Aboriginal people at an increased risk of being victims of violent crimes such as sexual assault, assault and robbery, they are also overrepresented as victims of the most serious form of violence. Specifically, while Aboriginal people represented on average, about 3% of the population between 1997 and 2004, in incidents where the Aboriginal status of the victim was known, Aboriginal people made up 17% of victims of homicide over the same time period.³⁸

Rates of homicide much higher for Aboriginal victims

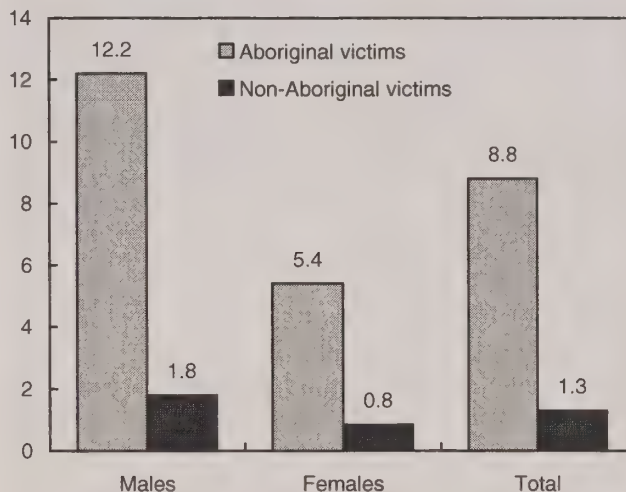
The average victim homicide rate between 1997 and 2000^{39,40,41} for Aboriginal people was 8.8 per 100,000 population, almost seven times higher than that for non-Aboriginal people (1.3 per 100,000 population).

The rate of homicide was particularly high among Aboriginal male victims (12.2 per 100,000 population), which was double that of Aboriginal females (5.4 per 100,000 population) and almost 7 times greater than the rate for non-Aboriginal male victims (12.2 compared to 1.8 victims per 100,000 population) (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Rates of homicide much higher for Aboriginal victims, 1997-2000^{1,2,3}

Average rate per 100,000 population



1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the average number of homicides per year, between 1997 and 2000.

2. Excludes homicides where the Aboriginal status of the victim was unknown.

3. Population estimates were derived from 2001 post-censal estimates and 1996 Census counts, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Aboriginal victims less likely to be killed with a firearm, more likely to know their killer

Over the eight-year time period, Aboriginal people were less likely to be shot to death compared to non-Aboriginal people. While 13% of Aboriginal victims were killed with a firearm, a far greater proportion of victims were stabbed (44%) or beaten to death (32%). Conversely, non-Aboriginal victims were most likely to be shot (32%), followed by being stabbed (27%) and being beaten (22%).

Generally speaking, victims of homicide are much more likely to be killed by someone known to them than by a stranger (Dauvergne, 2005). Among solved homicides over the 8-year period, 88% of Aboriginal victims knew their killer, compared to 83% of non-Aboriginal victims.⁴² In contrast, 12% of Aboriginal victims were killed by a stranger, compared to 17% of non-Aboriginal victims. This finding is similar to that from the GSS, which found that the perpetrator in incidents of non-lethal violence against Aboriginal victims was less likely to be a stranger compared to incidents involving non-Aboriginal victims.

When Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims knew their killers, the perpetrator was more likely to be a non-family member (i.e. acquaintance) (59% compared to 54%), than a family member (41% compared to 46%).

Aboriginal victims more likely to have consumed an intoxicant and to have initiated violence

In homicides where it was known whether the victim had consumed an intoxicating substance⁴³, including alcohol, drugs and/or another intoxicant, Aboriginal victims were almost twice as likely to have consumed an intoxicant compared to non-Aboriginal victims (82% compared to 45%, respectively). Further, about one-quarter of Aboriginal homicide victims had initiated violence⁴⁴ either through a threat or through the use of physical force. This compares to 11% of non-Aboriginal victims.

Aboriginal people as perpetrators of crime⁴⁵

Homicides involving Aboriginal accused^{46,47,48}

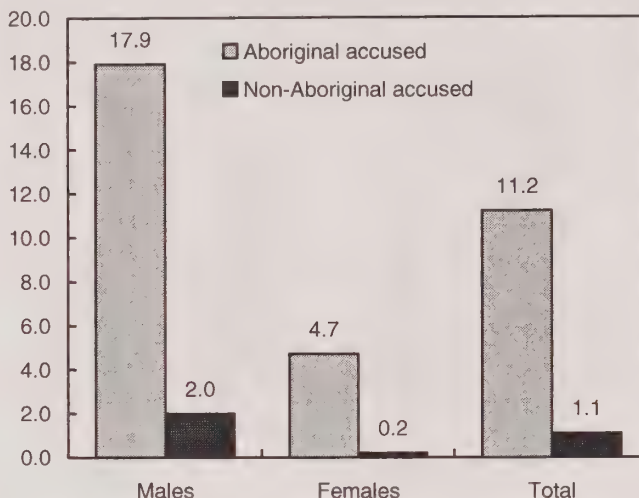
Similar to their overrepresentation as victims of homicide, Aboriginal people were also highly overrepresented as persons accused of homicide. For homicides in which the Aboriginal status of the accused was known, Aboriginal people represented 23% of those accused of committing a homicide between 1997 and 2004.⁴⁹

When taking into account differences in population between 1997 and 2000⁵⁰, it was found that Aboriginal people were 10 times more likely to be accused of homicide than were non-Aboriginal people (11.2 accused persons per 100,000 Aboriginal population compared to 1.1 accused persons per 100,000 non-Aboriginal population). Aboriginal males were particularly highly represented, being 4 times more likely than Aboriginal females and 9 times more likely than non-Aboriginal males to be accused of homicide (17.9 per 100,000 Aboriginal males compared to 4.7 per 100,000 Aboriginal females and 2.0 per 100,000 non-Aboriginal males, respectively) (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Aboriginal people more likely to be accused of homicide, 1997-2000^{1,2,3}

Average rate per 100,000 population



1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the average number of homicides per year, between 1997 and 2000.
2. Excludes homicides where the Aboriginal status of the accused was unknown.
3. Population estimates were derived from 2001 post-censal estimates and 1996 Census counts, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Source: Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Second-degree murder charge most common for Aboriginal accused

According to the *Criminal Code*, there are four separate homicide charges that can be laid by police: first degree murder⁵¹, second-degree murder⁵², manslaughter⁵³ and infanticide.⁵⁴ While Aboriginal people are proportionately more likely to be accused of homicide, they are less likely to be charged with the most serious type of homicide offence.

Between 1997 and 2004, for those homicides where a charge was laid or recommended against the accused⁵⁵, Aboriginal people were most likely to be charged with second-degree murder (66%) followed by first-degree murder (20%) and manslaughter (14%).⁵⁶ These findings indicate that homicides involving Aboriginal accused are less likely to be planned and deliberate and more likely to be the result of an impulsive or emotional response.

By comparison, non-Aboriginal accused were most likely to be charged with the most serious offence, first-degree murder (46%), followed by second-degree murder (39%), manslaughter (14%), and infanticide (1%).

Aboriginal persons accused of homicide more likely to have a criminal record

A substantial proportion of individuals charged with homicide have had at least one prior conviction. In incidents where it was known whether or not the accused had a criminal past⁵⁷,

previous convictions were particularly common for Aboriginal people. Between 1997 and 2004, 82% of Aboriginal accused had been previously convicted, compared to 62% of non-Aboriginal accused.

The most common types of previous offences were violent in nature both for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal accused (71% compared to 61%), followed by property offences (18% compared to 19%) and other *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offences (11% and 20%).

Homicides involving Aboriginal accused more likely to be related to alcohol and/or drug consumption

As previously stated, the consumption of alcohol and drugs, either by the victim or the perpetrator, has often been cited as a risk factor for violent crime. According to data from the Homicide survey, between 1997 and 2004, while the consumption of an intoxicating substance was common among many accused persons, it was much more prevalent among Aboriginal accused. In incidents where it was known whether alcohol and/or drugs were involved⁵⁸, 89% of Aboriginal accused had consumed an intoxicant at the time of the homicide. This compares to 61% of non-Aboriginal accused.

In general, it has been found that the use of alcohol and/or drugs among persons accused of homicide is more common among males than females (Dauvergne, 2005). This finding does not hold true for Aboriginal males and females accused of homicide. In fact, Aboriginal females were slightly more likely than Aboriginal males to have used alcohol, drugs and/or other intoxicants at the time of the incident (94% versus 88%). Among non-Aboriginal accused, females were less likely than males to have consumed an intoxicant at the time of the incident (41% versus 64%).

The nature and extent of crime on reserves⁶²

Thus far, this *Juristat* has provided a profile of available data sources pertaining to Aboriginal people as victims and offenders. Generally speaking, Aboriginal people's experiences of victimization and offending have been compared to those of non-Aboriginal people.

This section identifies incidents that have occurred on reserve and compares them to incidents that have occurred elsewhere in Canada. The data are drawn from a database that identifies the geographic location of the criminal incident (on reserve or elsewhere in Canada), the sex of the accused, and whether the accused was an adult or a youth. The data do not, however, provide information on the Aboriginal identity of the victim or the accused. Furthermore, the term 'on reserve' refers strictly to the location of the offences committed and not to the residency of the victim or the perpetrator.

Research has shown that crime rates on reserves are higher than crime rates outside reserves (Quann and Trevethan, 2000). These differences have been attributed (at least in part) to differences in the nature of policing in these communities

Text box 4

Perceptions of social disorder and fear of crime among Aboriginal people⁵⁹

Aboriginal people more likely to identify social problems in their neighbourhoods

In 2004, respondents to the GSS were asked to indicate how problematic socially disruptive conditions were in their neighbourhood. These included, noisy neighbours or loud parties, people loitering in the street, people sleeping on the streets, garbage, vandalism, harassment or attacks motivated by racial, ethnic or religious intolerance, drugs, public drunkenness and prostitution.

Generally speaking, Aboriginal people were more likely than non-Aboriginal people to identify socially disruptive conditions to be "very" or "fairly" big problems in their neighbourhoods. For example, Aboriginal people were more likely than non-Aboriginal people to report drug use and drug trafficking (22% versus 12%), public drunkenness and rowdy behaviour (18% versus 6%) and vandalism, graffiti and other types of property and vehicle damage (15% versus 8%) as problems characteristic of their neighbourhoods.

Aboriginal people have relatively low levels of fear of crime

Given the high rates of victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population, as well as their increased likelihood of reporting social problems in their neighbourhoods, one might assume that their fear levels would also be higher. In fact, the vast majority of Aboriginal people (92%) indicated that they were either "somewhat" or "very satisfied" with their safety from criminal victimization, a proportion which was similar to that of non-Aboriginal people (94%) (Table 1). These findings were unchanged compared to results from the last victimization survey.

The GSS also measured individuals' fear of criminal victimization by asking them how safe they felt from crime while engaging in certain activities. The analysis is based only on the responses of those people who indicated that they did engage in these activities.

Consistent with findings from the 1999 GSS, 88% of Aboriginal people who walked alone at night⁶⁰ said that they felt safe doing so. Similar to levels of fear among non-Aboriginal people, more than three-quarters of Aboriginal people (78%) reported that they were "not at all worried" about becoming the victim of crime while alone in their homes in the evening. Using public transportation alone in the evening seemed to evoke more concern than the above-mentioned activities.⁶¹ One half of Aboriginal people reported being at least somewhat worried when engaging in this activity, a proportion which was not statistically different from the non-Aboriginal population.

When respondents were asked whether, compared to other areas in Canada, they thought their neighbourhood had a higher amount of crime, about the same or a lower amount of crime, about 6 in 10 of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons felt that crime in their neighbourhood was lower than in other areas of the country.

See notes at end of text.

as well as differences in the likelihood of the police recording incidents that are reported to them (Roberts and Doob, 1997). While most Aboriginal people do not live on reserves⁶³ (about seven in ten live in large and small cities and rural areas elsewhere in Canada), among the reserve population, the vast majority (89%) of individuals are Aboriginal people.⁶⁴ Further, for individuals living on reserves, police-reported data indicate that the nature and extent of crime in those communities differs compared to crimes committed elsewhere in Canada.

Text box 5

First Nations policing

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada works with Aboriginal communities, provincial/territorial governments and other law enforcement partners to implement the First Nations Policing Policy (FNPP). The First Nations Policing Policy, announced in June 1991 by the federal government, gives First Nations communities the opportunity to participate with provincial and federal governments in the development of dedicated policing services in their communities. First Nations communities may choose to develop and administer their own police service, or they may choose a police service delivered by a contingent of First Nations officers working within an existing police force. Either way, the new First Nations Policing Policy is designed to give First Nations communities greater control over the delivery and management of policing services in their communities.

The nature of crime on reserves varies compared to the rest of Canada

In 2004, there were about 93,000 police-reported *Criminal Code* incidents on reserves across Canada, representing 4% of the national total. These offences can typically be grouped into three main sub-categories: violent crimes, property crimes and 'other' *Criminal Code* incidents. Over half (55%) of on-reserve incidents were classified as 'other' *Criminal Code* offences, such as mischief and disturbing the peace, while 25% were violent and 21% were property offences (Table 2).⁶⁵

Elsewhere in Canada, the breakdown of offence types differed substantially from that on reserves. In off-reserve areas, property crimes were the most frequently occurring crimes, representing about half (51%) of all offences, followed by 'other' *Criminal Code* offences (38%), and violent offences (11%).

Crime rates higher on reserve

Police-reported data also show that on-reserve crime rates were about three times higher than crime rates elsewhere. For instance, in 2004⁶⁶ the crime rate for offences committed on reserves was 28,900 per 100,000 population compared to 8,500 per 100,000 population for crimes committed elsewhere. For certain types of offences, the differences between on-reserve and rates for the rest of Canada were greater still (Table 2).

Overall, rates of violent crime committed on reserves were much higher than rates elsewhere in the country. In particular, compared to the rest of Canada, on-reserve rates were eight times higher for assaults, seven times higher for sexual assaults and six times higher for homicides. The only violent crime with a higher rate in off-reserve areas was robbery, which had a rate that was almost twice that of the on-reserve population.

Unlike violent crime rates, there was less disparity in the rates of property crime on and off reserves. In general, on-reserve property crime rates were modestly higher than rates for such crimes committed elsewhere, with some exceptions. For instance, the on-reserve rate of break and enter was three times higher and the rate of possession of stolen goods was twice that of off-reserve rates. In contrast, the rate of fraud incidents committed on reserve was about two-thirds the rate of frauds committed throughout the rest of Canada.

Other types of *Criminal Code* offences were five times higher on reserves than outside reserves. In particular, crimes such as disturbing the peace (12 times higher) and offensive weapons violations (7 times higher) occurred at distinctly higher rates on reserve, relative to the rest of Canada.

Clearance rates higher on reserve⁶⁷

Expressed as a percentage, clearance rates represent the number of criminal incidents that have been cleared either by charge or other means, as a proportion of all criminal incidents that come to the attention of police in a given year.⁶⁸ In 2004, overall clearance rates for on-reserve offences were higher than rates for incidents occurring elsewhere in Canada, at 54% and 31%, respectively. Clearance rates were highest for violent incidents committed both on and off reserve (69% respectively), followed by other *Criminal Code* offences, at 55% for on-reserve crimes and 36% for offences committed outside reserves. Property crimes had the lowest clearance rates, with one-third of on-reserve offences and one-fifth of off-reserve offences cleared by charge or otherwise.

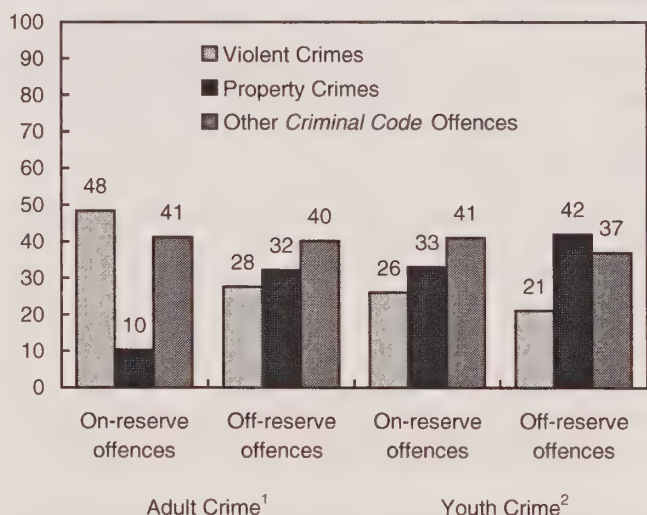
Adult crime on reserve⁶⁹

In 2004, about 18,800 adults were charged with crimes committed on reserves across Canada. Nearly half of these charges were for violent crimes, followed by other *Criminal Code* violations (41%) and property crimes (10%). In comparison, the largest proportion of charges laid against the 391,300 adults in crimes committed outside reserves were for other *Criminal Code* incidents (40%), followed by property offences (32%), and violent crimes (28%) (Figure 6). Further, compared to adults

Figure 6

Violent crimes most common for adults charged on-reserve, least common for youth, 2004

Percent



1. Includes adults aged 18 and over charged with a *Criminal Code* offence.

2. Includes youth aged 12 to 17 accused of a *Criminal Code* offence.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, On-reserve and off-reserve police-reported crime database.

involved in off-reserve crimes, the rate for those charged on reserve was about ten times higher for violent offences, nearly six times higher for 'other' *Criminal Code* violations and about twice as high for property crimes (Table 3).

Charge rates for males higher than for females on reserve and elsewhere in Canada

Generally speaking, rates of persons charged are much higher for males than for females. In 2004, overall on-reserve charge rates for men were four times those of women, while elsewhere in Canada, they were five times higher (Table 3).⁷⁰ Specifically, for crimes occurring on reserves in 2004, men were four times more likely than women to be charged with a violent offence or a property offence and five times more likely to be charged with an 'other' *Criminal Code* offence.

For certain crimes, the gender gap in charge rates was more pronounced off reserve. For example, outside reserves, the charge rate for homicide was ten times higher for males than it was for females, compared to a charge rate for males that was five times higher than for females on reserve.

Off reserve, rates of motor vehicle theft were ten times higher among men than among women, whereas on reserve, they were five times higher for men than for women. For break and enter offences committed off reserve, men were charged at 12 times the rate of women. In comparison, on reserve, the rate at which men were charged with a break and enter offence was eight times higher than the rate of women so charged.

Youth crime on reserve⁷¹

Youth accused of a crime can be formally charged or dealt with by other means.⁷² In 2004, about 9,800 youths aged 12 to 17 were accused of a criminal offence on a reserve; 44% of youth accused were formally charged and the remaining 56% were cleared by an alternate means. Identical proportions of youths were charged (44%) and cleared otherwise (56%) in crimes committed outside reserves. However, the figure for the number of youth cleared by alternative means is likely undercounted, since not all police services keep complete records on youth dealt with in this manner.

Rates of youth crime higher on reserve

In 2004, the rate of youth crime on reserves was three times higher than the rate of youth crime throughout the rest of Canada (Table 4). This difference is smaller than the relative difference in on- and off-reserve crime rates among the adult population. Crime rates for adults charged with an on-reserve crime were six times higher than off-reserve rates.

Higher rates of youth crime on reserve were most notable for homicide, followed by break and enter and disturbing the peace. Specifically, young offenders were accused of committing homicides on reserve at about 11 times the rate of young people so accused elsewhere in Canada, and were seven times more likely to be accused of break and enter and disturbing the peace. In contrast, differences in on-reserve youth crime and youth crime in the rest of the country were relatively small for offences such as theft of \$5,000 and under, possession of stolen goods and robbery. In addition, the on-

reserve rate for fraud among youth was about half that of the off-reserve rate (Table 4).

The nature of youth crime similar on-reserve and outside reserves

Consistent with research indicating that younger individuals are more likely to be involved in committing less serious types of crimes (Wood and Griffiths, 2000), young people involved in crimes, both on reserves and in the rest of the country, were least likely to be accused of a violent crime. In 2004, about one-quarter of on-reserve youth offences were violent crimes, compared to one-fifth elsewhere in Canada. The vast majority of violent offences both on reserve and outside reserves were assaults.

In 2004, youth committing on-reserve crimes were most often accused of other *Criminal Code* offences (Figure 6). On reserves, 41% of youth crimes were classified as other *Criminal Code* incidents, as were a similar proportion of youth crimes committed outside reserves (37%). Among youth accused of other *Criminal Code* offences on and off reserve, the largest proportions were involved with mischief offences (38% and 36% respectively).

Text box 6

Aboriginal people's perceptions of discrimination⁷³

Some research has suggested that one of the causes of the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice system is due to differential legal processing. It has been speculated that this stems from cultural conflict and racial discrimination (Roberts and Doob, 1997). In 2004, for the first time, the GSS attempted to measure respondents' perceptions of their experiences of discrimination in the past five years, based on factors such as race, ethnicity, sex, religion, language, age, and sexual orientation.

The survey also asked about the types of situations in which perceived discrimination was experienced, such as these: on the street, in a store, when applying for a job, when dealing with the police, while using public transportation, while attending school, while participating in sports, and in dealing with health care workers.

Overall, Aboriginal people were twice as likely to report having experienced some form of discrimination compared to non-Aboriginal⁷⁴ people (31% compared to 14%). The most commonly cited precipitating factors for discrimination against both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents were on the basis of ethnicity (22% compared to 5%), race (20% compared to 5%) and age (8% compared to 3%).

Among all of the situations in which survey respondents could have experienced discrimination, they were most likely to report its occurrence at work or when applying for a job or promotion (14% of Aboriginal people versus 7% of non-Aboriginal people). Regardless of the location, discrimination was always more common for Aboriginal respondents than it was for their non-Aboriginal counterparts. For example, Aboriginal people were more likely to experience discrimination on the street (14% compared to 4%), at a store (13% compared to 5%) and when dealing with the police (8% compared to 1%). Generally speaking, Aboriginal males and females were equally likely to experience discrimination based on similar factors and in similar situations.

Property crime offences constituted one-third of on-reserve youth crime and 42% of youth crime elsewhere in 2004. Over half of young people accused of property crimes on reserve were involved in break and enter offences and another 26% were involved in thefts of property of \$5,000 and under. Throughout the rest of Canada, the reverse was true: 57% of young offenders were accused of theft of property worth \$5,000 or less and 21% were accused of break and enter.

Aboriginal peoples contacts with and attitudes toward the justice system⁷⁵

Beyond measuring the nature and extent of victimization, respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they had had contact with the police in the 12 months preceding the survey, under a number of specified circumstances.

Aboriginal people more likely to have contact with the police for serious reasons

Similar to findings from 1999, there were virtually no differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in their contact with the police for such things as a public information session or a traffic violation. However, Aboriginal people were more likely to have had contact with the police for what could be considered more serious reasons. In particular, Aboriginal people were more likely to come into contact with police as victims (13% compared with 7%), witnesses to a crime (11% compared with 6%) and by being arrested (5% compared with 1%).

Levels of satisfaction with police performance lower for Aboriginal people

By indicating whether each was doing a "good", "average" or "poor" job carrying out certain functions, respondents to the 2004 GSS were also asked to rate the performance of four sectors of the criminal justice system, the police, courts, prisons and parole system.

While the performance of the police was generally rated favourably, both by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents, Aboriginal people were less likely to rate the police at doing a "good" job with the following functions: ensuring the safety of citizens (50% compared with 62%), treating people fairly (49% compared with 60%), enforcing the laws (48% compared with 60%), supplying information to the public on ways to reduce crime (45% compared with 51%) and responding promptly to calls (45% compared with 52%). The lower levels of satisfaction among Aboriginal people could in part be explained by the fact that Aboriginal people are more likely to report having experienced discrimination when dealing with the police. Furthermore, they are more likely to come into contact with the police. Research has shown that Canadians who come into contact with the police are less likely to feel that police are doing a good job (Tufts, 2000).

Evaluations of criminal court performance differed depending on the type of activity being performed. For example, Aboriginal people were less likely than non-Aboriginal people to rate

the courts at doing a "good" job at ensuring a fair trial for the accused (39% compared with 45%), and determining the guilt or innocence of the accused (21% compared with 27%). In contrast, Aboriginal respondents were more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to evaluate the courts positively at helping the victim (24% compared with 20% respectively). There was no difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents in their assessments of the court's ability to provide justice quickly.

Similar to what was found in the 1999 GSS, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents assessed the performance of the prison system similarly in 2004, with just over one-quarter reporting that the prison system was doing a good job at supervising and controlling prisoners. Further, 18% of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents reported that the prison system was doing a good job at helping prisoners become law-abiding citizens.

Assessments of the parole system's performance were consistent for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents, with 17% of both groups believing that the parole system was doing a good job at releasing offenders and 15% (respectively) believing that it was doing a good job at supervising offenders on parole. A significant proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal respondents (between 15% and 23%) were uncertain about how to assess the performance of the prison and parole systems.

Aboriginal people in the correctional system⁷⁶

The issue of increasing proportions of Aboriginal people in the correctional system has been a concern within the criminal justice system at all levels of government. In recognition of the high level of representation of Aboriginal people in prisons, in 1996, the *Criminal Code* was reformed with the addition of Section 718.2 which requires a court to consider the following principle: that

- "e) all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances, should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders."

Canada's *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (2003) also includes a similar provision in relation to young offenders (s.38(2)(d), YCJA).

Despite these legislative changes, Aboriginal people are still highly represented in admissions to all types of correctional services⁷⁷ in Canada. In 2003/2004, while Aboriginal people represented 2.6% of the adult population in jurisdictions with available admissions data on Aboriginal identity, they were highly represented in admissions to all correctional services. Specifically, Aboriginal people accounted for 21% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 19% to conditional sentence, 18% to remand and 16% to probation (Table 5). They also represented 18% of all admissions to federal custody.

Aboriginal adults in the correctional system

High representation of Aboriginal adults in admissions to correctional services across Canada

While Aboriginal people are generally highly represented in admissions to correctional services throughout Canada, there are considerable differences across the country with respect to the proportions of Aboriginal adults in the general population and in correctional services. For example, in 2003/2004, Aboriginal people made up 80% of those who were admitted to adult provincially sentenced custodial facilities in Saskatchewan, compared to their representation of 10% of the provincial adult population. In Manitoba, Aboriginal people represented 68% of admissions to provincial custody (compared to 11% of the provincial population) and in Alberta, 39% of admissions to provincial facilities were Aboriginal persons (compared to 4% of the provincial adult population). In other provinces and territories⁷⁸, the proportion of Aboriginal people admitted to sentenced custody ranged from two to six times their proportional representation in the general population. Similar patterns of representation were also found for community correctional services such as probation and conditional sentence (Table 5).⁷⁹

Proportions of Aboriginal admissions to custody increasing⁸⁰

For all custodial admissions, the proportion of Aboriginal admissions increased over the ten-year period between 1994/1995 and 2003/2004 (Table 6). In contrast, the proportion of Aboriginal adult admissions to community supervision, including probation and conditional sentences, remained stable over the same time period.

Generally speaking, the proportional representation of Aboriginal females admitted to custody has been greater than that for Aboriginal males. For example, between 1994/1995 and 2003/2004, Aboriginal females made up between 25% and 29% of all female admissions to provincial sentenced custody compared to Aboriginal males, who made up between 15% and 18% of all male admissions to provincial sentenced custody over the same time period (Table 6). For remand, Aboriginal females represented between 14% and 23% of all female admissions while Aboriginal males represented between 11% and 16% over the same time period.

In general, the number of admissions to sentenced custody has decreased over time while admissions to remand have been increasing (Beattie, 2005). While this is true for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults, there have been variations between the two groups. For example, although there was a general decline in the number of adults admitted to provincial sentenced custody between 1994/1995 and 2003/2004, this decrease was larger for non-Aboriginal adults (-35%) than Aboriginal adults (-19%).

With respect to remand, admissions for Aboriginal adults increased by 34% between 1994/1995 and 2003/2004 compared to a 3% increase for non-Aboriginal adults. The largest increase was for Aboriginal females, whose admissions to remand doubled over the same time period (Table 6).

Aboriginal adults in correctional services younger, less educated, more likely to be unemployed⁸¹

As mentioned earlier, factors that can increase the likelihood that a person will become involved in the criminal justice system are often more common among the Aboriginal population. Using data from the Integrated Correctional Service Survey (ICSS), it is possible to examine adults who are in the correctional system by a number of characteristics, including their Aboriginal identity, sex, age at first involvement, marital status, education and employment status.

Between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, almost 40,000 adults⁸² were involved in correctional services in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. Of these, approximately 11,400⁸³ or 30% were Aboriginal people⁸⁴ (Table 7).

Aboriginal males and females represented relatively high proportions of all males and females in adult correctional services (28% and 35% respectively). While females represented a minority of all persons involved in adult correctional services overall, the representation of Aboriginal females in adult correctional services was higher compared to that of non-Aboriginal females (18% versus 13%).

Similar to their representation in the general population, Aboriginal adults in correctional services were younger than their non-Aboriginal counterparts, had lower levels of education and were less likely to have been employed. Specifically, Aboriginal adults were an average of 3 years younger than non-Aboriginal adults, with a larger proportion of Aboriginal persons who were between the ages of 20 and 29 (42%) than non-Aboriginal persons (35%). Furthermore, approximately three-quarters (74%) of Aboriginal adults involved in correctional services had not completed their secondary school education, compared to one-third (33%) of non-Aboriginal adults. Aboriginal persons were also less likely to be employed at the time of admission to correctional services compared to non-Aboriginal persons (35% versus 44%).

Nine out of ten Aboriginal adults in correctional services in Saskatchewan had a substance abuse need⁸⁵

When an individual is involved in correctional services, risk/need assessment tools are often used to determine treatment options and to assess the risk of future offending (Beattie, 2005). Needs data are available for persons assessed on six needs: attitude, criminal peers and companions (social interaction), drug and alcohol abuse (substance abuse), employment, family/marital relationships (marital/family) and emotional stability (personal/emotional).⁸⁶

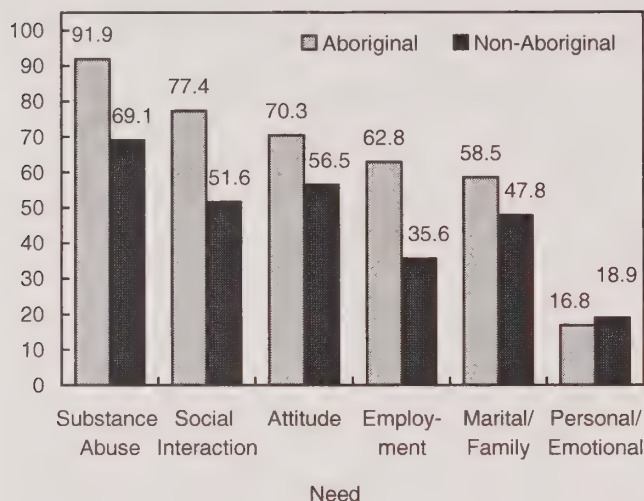
With the exception of the personal/emotional need domain, a larger proportion of Aboriginal persons was assessed as having a medium or high level of need compared to non-Aboriginal persons (Figure 7). Substance abuse was assessed to be at a medium or high level for a majority of adults involved in correctional services, but was particularly prevalent among Aboriginal persons. Specifically, over 9 in 10 had a substance abuse need compared to 7 in 10 non-Aboriginal adults. In addition, over three-quarters of Aboriginal adults were assessed as having a medium or high level of need in the social

interaction domain compared to slightly more than one-half of non-Aboriginal adults. While more than 6 in 10 Aboriginal adults had an employment need indicated, the same was true for slightly less than 4 in 10 non-Aboriginal adults.

Figure 7

Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan correctional system more likely to be assessed as having a medium or high level of need, 2002/03 to 2003/04

Percent with medium or high level need present



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Aboriginal youth in the correctional system

One in five youths admitted to sentenced custody in 2003/2004 were Aboriginal

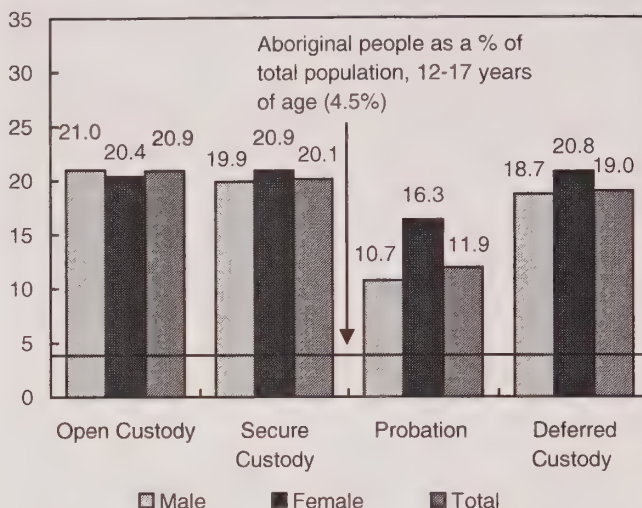
Similar to Aboriginal adults, according to data from the Youth Custody and Community Services Survey (YCCS), Aboriginal youth were highly represented in admissions to all types of correctional services in 2003/2004. While they represented approximately 5% of the population in areas with available corrections data⁸⁷, Aboriginal youth comprised 21% of admissions to open custody, 20% of admissions to secure custody, 19% of admissions to deferred custody and 12% admissions to probation.

For nearly all types of correctional services, male and female Aboriginal youth were highly represented and in similar proportions (Figure 8). The only exception was in admissions to probation, where females had a higher representation of Aboriginal people than their male counterparts (16% compared to 11%).

Figure 8

Aboriginal youth highly represented in admissions to all types of correctional services, 2003/04¹

Percent Aboriginal



1. Due to data unavailability, data for Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics.

Aboriginal representation among youth admissions to correctional services varies by province

Also similar to Aboriginal adults in correctional services throughout Canada, there were some variations in the representation of Aboriginal youth as a proportion of admissions to correctional services compared to their representation in the general population. In 2003/2004, the provinces with the highest Aboriginal representation among youths admitted to custodial and community programs compared to their provincial youth populations were Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia (Table 8).

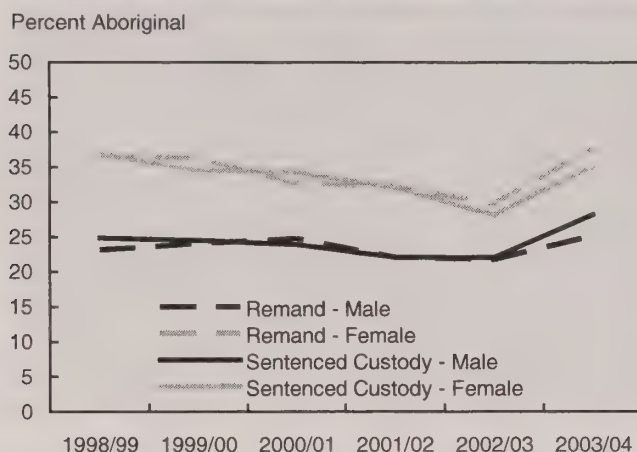
Recent increase in proportion of Aboriginal youth admitted to correctional services⁸⁸

The overall proportion of Aboriginal youth admitted to remand and sentenced custody gradually and consistently declined between 1998/1999 and 2002/2003. This proportion rose sharply in 2003/2004, the first year following the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. While the proportions rose, the overall number of youth admissions to sentenced custody and remand declined dramatically over the same time period. Specifically, between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, the number of Aboriginal youths admitted to sentenced custody decreased by 33% while the number of non-Aboriginal youth admissions decreased by 51%. With respect to remand, there was a slight increase (+3%) in the number of Aboriginal youth admissions and a decrease for non-Aboriginal youth (-17%).

Consistent with the trends in adult corrections, the high representation of Aboriginal female youths admitted to remand and sentenced custody (open and secure custody) was greater than that for Aboriginal male youths (Figure 9). For example, while Aboriginal female youth comprised between 28% and 37% of all female admissions to sentenced custody between 1998/1999 and 2003/2004, young Aboriginal males made up between 22% and 28% of male admissions over the same time period. Similarly, young Aboriginal females represented between 30% and 38% of admissions to remand compared to a range of 22% and 25% for young Aboriginal males.

Figure 9

Percent of Aboriginal youth admitted to remand and sentenced custody rose in 2003/04¹



1. Due to data unavailability for some years, data from Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut were excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey; Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics.

Text box 7

Predicting re-involvement in correctional services following release

Research has found that Aboriginal persons are more likely than their non-Aboriginal counterparts to be re-admitted to the correctional system after being released.⁸⁹ In addition, factors such as substance abuse, social interaction, and family and marital problems tend to be related to higher levels of re-involvement (Johnson, 2005).⁹⁰

In order to assess the degree to which various factors were related to re-involvement, separate multivariate analyses⁹¹ were performed for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders⁹² released from correctional services in Saskatchewan between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000.

Some of the factors that predicted return to correctional services were the same for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders. For example, lower education levels, higher employment need levels, higher substance abuse need levels, higher marital/family need levels, release from custody (as opposed to release from a community correctional program), and custody and community involvement (as opposed to community-only involvement) were all predictors of re-involvement regardless of Aboriginal identity.

It was also found that there were additional factors that were unique predictors of re-involvement for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders. For example, being male and being young, as well as having high social interaction need levels, were unique predictors of re-involvement for Aboriginal offenders. In contrast, predictive factors that were exclusive to non-Aboriginal offenders included having high attitude need levels and low personal/emotional need levels.

For Aboriginal offenders, it was found that males were almost twice as likely as females to be re-involved. Furthermore, Aboriginal offenders assessed as having a high social interaction need were almost twice as likely to return, and Aboriginal offenders rated as having a high substance abuse need were 2.2 times more likely to return to correctional services compared to those assessed as having a low need level.

Non-Aboriginal offenders who were released from custody were over four times more likely to return than those released from a community correctional program. Furthermore, those who were rated as having a high substance abuse need were over two-and-a-half times more likely than those rated as low need, and those rated as having a high attitude need level were more than twice as likely to return to correctional services compared to those who were rated as low need.

See notes at end of text.

Text box 8

Aboriginal-specific initiatives in the criminal justice system

In recent years, Canadian researchers and policy-makers, as well as Aboriginal communities themselves, have placed growing importance on the development of culturally appropriate criminal justice policies, programs and services for Aboriginal people. This need has been reinforced through amendments to the *Criminal Code*⁹³ and court-based decisions such as *R. v. Gladue* (1999) and *R. v. Wells* (2000), recognizing the particular circumstances of Aboriginal offenders. Across Canada, numerous programs have arisen to respond to Aboriginal involvement in the criminal justice system. Selected Aboriginal-specific initiatives are described below.

Aboriginal courtwork program

This national program is designed to offer assistance and support to Aboriginal accused throughout the court process. Types of assistance include: explaining the reason for the charges to the accused; providing general information about legal rights and responsibilities; helping the accused get legal counsel; acting as a liaison between the accused and the police, defence lawyers, the court or the Crown prosecutor; ensuring the accused understands all court proceedings; translating court proceedings for the accused who are not fluent in English or French; and accompanying the accused to court appearances.

The Aboriginal Courtwork Program is accessible to all Aboriginal people regardless of status or residency. Currently, the Aboriginal Courtwork Program is operating in every jurisdiction except New Brunswick.

Aboriginal-specific correctional rehabilitation programs and services for federal offenders

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) provides Aboriginal-specific programs, services and initiatives targeted towards the safe and successful reintegration of Aboriginal offenders, such as these: Aboriginal treatment and healing programs; Aboriginal-specific health strategies

in HIV/AIDS, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and traditional healing; research projects on Aboriginal reintegration; Aboriginal healing lodges (currently 8 across Canada); halfway houses for Aboriginal offenders (currently 24 across Canada); agreements with Aboriginal communities to offer services to Aboriginal offenders; a national Aboriginal employment/recruitment strategy; elders working in institutions and in the community; liaison services in federal institutions; Native brotherhood and sisterhood groups; and offender employment and job placement.

The Aboriginal justice strategy

One of the federal government's key responses to addressing the issue of Aboriginal involvement in the justice system has been the Aboriginal Justice Strategy (AJS), which co-funds diversion, sentencing, and family and civil mediation projects in Aboriginal communities with provinces and territories.

In response to recommendations related to justice made by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the AJS was established in 1996 to:

- help Aboriginal people assume greater responsibility for the administration of justice in their communities;
- promote the inclusion of Aboriginal values within the Canadian justice system; and
- contribute to a reduction in rates of crime, victimization, and incarceration among Aboriginal people.

The AJS is managed by the Department of Justice Canada's (DOJ) Aboriginal Justice Directorate (AJD). In collaboration with provincial and territorial counterparts, the AJD pursues the goals of the AJS through policy development and support, community-based justice program funding, training and development funding, self-government negotiations and capacity-building support, and outreach and partnership. The AJS supports activities on reserve and off reserve and in urban settings to all members of their communities.

See notes at end of text.

Methodology/Data sources

The General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization

As part of the GSS program, Statistics Canada conducts a survey on criminal victimization every 5 years. The most recent survey was conducted in 2004, and involved telephone interviews with approximately 24,000 people aged 15 and older, living in the 10 Canadian provinces. Similar to previous surveys, respondents were asked about their experiences with criminal victimization, spousal violence, and their opinions on a variety of justice-related topics including their fear of crime and their perceptions about the performance of the police, criminal courts, and prison and parole systems.

Respondents to the survey were asked to self-identify their cultural or racial background which included whether they identified with an Aboriginal group, including North American Indian, Métis and Inuit. Based on responses to this question, a variable was derived to distinguish Aboriginal from non-Aboriginal respondents. Although it is recognized that Aboriginal culture is diverse and comprises various groups, small numbers in the sample survey prohibit a more detailed breakdown of Aboriginal groups. Respondents who refused to provide their cultural background were excluded from the current analysis.

The reader is cautioned that survey results exclude data from the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut, territories where high concentrations of Aboriginal people reside. Furthermore, the GSS uses random digit dialing, a telephone sampling method which includes both on-reserve and off-reserve Aboriginal populations, yet does not distinguish between them. Finally, comparisons between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations should be made with the consideration that, according to the 2001 Census, the Aboriginal population in Canada is on average, 13 years younger than the non-Aboriginal population (with median ages of 24.7 years versus 37.7 years) (Statistics Canada, 2003). This difference can have a substantial effect on many socio-economic variables. It can also have a significant impact on victimization rates, given that people in younger age groups have been shown to be the most likely to be victimized.

Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The aggregate UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e., if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g., for a bank robbery, counting everyone present in the bank would result in an over-counting of robbery incidents). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the most serious offence) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

On-reserve and off-reserve police-reported crime database

The analysis in this report focuses on on-reserve and off-reserve incidents reported to the police in 2004. Police-reported crime data for on-reserve incidents in this report are drawn from a database that combines data from 2001 to 2004 provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and subsets from the aggregate UCR survey. The RCMP on-reserve data are for all detachments serving reserves in their jurisdiction. The UCR subset of on-reserve data contains all First Nations police services in Canada that report to the UCR survey. The off-reserve police-reported data are the difference between the aggregate UCR survey and the on-reserve data.

Except for Ontario and Quebec, the majority of police-reported crime data for incidents occurring on reserves come from the RCMP. Specifically, 75% of all police-reported *Criminal Code* violations committed on reserves between 2001 and 2004 were supplied by RCMP detachments that police reserves. However, the on-reserve data for Ontario and Quebec included in this report largely comprise data from self-policed reserves in those provinces, as on-reserve crimes reported to the Ontario Provincial Police and Sûreté du Québec could not be distinguished from incidents committed off reserve. Therefore nationally, on-reserve crimes may be slightly under-counted as crime data for a small proportion of reserves (less than 25%) in Ontario and Quebec were included among off-reserve crime figures.

It should also be noted that 2001 was the first year that the RCMP provided comprehensive data for offences occurring on reserves at the request of the UCR survey. Consequently, offences occurring on reserves served by the RCMP may be under-reported for 2001 due to the introduction of these new reporting practices.

As well, data for on-reserve crimes reported to the RCMP in Yukon in 2004 were incomplete due to changes in record management systems. Therefore, 2004 on-reserve data from the RCMP for this jurisdiction were estimated using data reported in 2003.

Data drawn from this database identify the location of the crime (i.e., if it was committed on reserve or off reserve) yet do not identify the Aboriginal status of the accused. Therefore, assumptions about the cultural identity of the accused should not be made.

Rates are calculated using 2001 population counts, as this is the most recent year for which Census of Population estimates for on- and off- reserve populations are available. These population counts have not been adjusted for Census undercounting. Counts for on-reserve areas of residents are more affected than most by the incomplete enumeration of certain Indian reserves and Indian settlements. The extent of the impact will depend on the geographic area under study. In 2001, a total of 30 Indian reserves and Indian settlements were incompletely enumerated by the census. The populations of these 30 communities are not included in the census counts.

Homicide survey

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then sent to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide survey. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

In 1997, the variables for the Aboriginal status of the victim and the accused on the Homicide survey were revised and expanded. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, when analyzing proportions of victims and accused, homicide data for 8 years (between 1997 and 2004) were rolled up to produce an aggregated total of victims and accused persons. Analysis of victims and accused of homicide excludes those whose Aboriginal status is unknown. Over the 8-year period, an average of 31% of victims of homicide (varying between 15% and 45%) and an average of 29% of accused (varying between 18% and 44%) had an unknown Aboriginal status. In some cases, the Aboriginal status of the accused was not known to police at the time the data were reported. In accordance with internal guidelines, as of 1997, the Toronto Police Service and as of 2001, the RCMP discontinued reporting the Aboriginal status of victims and accused persons to the Homicide survey. This resulted in a substantial increase in the proportions of victims and accused with an unknown Aboriginal status.

Due to the substantial under coverage resulting from unreported data from large police forces, it was not possible to calculate homicide rates for the 8-year period between 1997 and 2004. Instead, data for the years 1997 through to 2000 were used to calculate rates of homicide for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims and accused. Over this time period, an average of 18% of victims and 16% of accused had an unknown Aboriginal status. It is possible that rates for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims would be higher if the accused Aboriginal status was known for all homicides. Homicide rates were calculated using an average of the 1996 Census counts and

the 2001 post-censal population estimates. This was done in order to compensate for the varying growth rates of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in the absence of intercensal population data.

Correctional Services Surveys

The corrections system has historically been the primary source of national data on Aboriginal involvement in the criminal justice system. Aboriginal identity is routinely collected upon intake of the individual into the correctional system as this information is necessary for case administration and program delivery. Due mostly to the nature of the operational objectives of correctional services, including the delivery of programs and services to individuals, the level of quality of these data is considered to be relatively sound. The Adult Correctional Services Survey (ACS), the Youth Custody and Community Services Survey (YCCS) and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) collect Aboriginal Identity information, with the frequency of reporting Aboriginal Identity as 'unknown' relatively low.

Glossary of corrections terms

Conditional sentence: refers to a disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the adult offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions.

Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore, administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Custodial supervision/custody: refers to detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Deferred custody: a deferred custody and supervision order allows a young person to serve his/her custody sentence in the community. A deferred custody and supervision order is similar to a conditional sentence of imprisonment for adults.

Open custody: refers to youths in sentenced custody "in (a) a community residential centre, group home, childcare institution, or forest or wilderness camp or (b) any like place or facility". A facility is considered "open" when there is minimal use of security devices or perimeter security. The extent to which facilities are "open" varies across jurisdictions.

Secure custody: a facility is considered secure when youths are detained by security devices, including those which operate with full perimeter security features and/or where youths are under constant observation. The extent to which facilities are "secure" varies across jurisdictions.

Probation: refers to a disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order. The court may also direct the offender to comply with conditions of a probation order in addition to a fine or a sentence of custody.

Remand: refers to court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.

Types of Needs:

Attitude: degree to which an individual accepts responsibility for the offence and shows a willingness to change.

Peers/companions (social interaction): level of problems associated with some or all of the individual's peers.

Drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse): degree to which use of alcohol and/or drugs is associated with problems.

Employment: employment status (employed versus unemployed) and employment history.

Family/marital relationships (marital/family): presence or absence of serious problems in relationships.

Emotional stability of offender (personal/emotional): whether or not emotional instability exists and the degree to which this is related to serious problems.

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Endnotes

1. For additional information, refer to Methodology/Data sources.
2. The portion of the Census definition of Aboriginal identity which includes individuals as members of an Indian Band or First Nation, is not included in justice surveys.
3. Throughout this report, when it is unknown whether the person has self-identified as Aboriginal or whether the person has been identified as Aboriginal based on visual assessment, the term 'Aboriginal status' has been used.
4. These projections have been made according to Statistics Canada's medium-growth scenario. See Statistics Canada, *Projections of the Aboriginal populations, Canada, provinces and territories*, Catalogue no. 91-547-XIE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
5. These inequalities are believed by some researchers to be the result of the colonization and attempted assimilation of Aboriginal people by European settlers. It is argued that a long-term effect of colonization has been the marginalization of Aboriginal peoples, which is reflected in high unemployment rates, low levels of education, low income and inadequate living conditions (Wood and Griffiths, 2000).
6. See Lochner, 2004; Raphael and Winter-Ember, 2001.
7. See Statistics Canada, 1996; Stevenson et al., 1998.
8. See O'Donnell and Tait, 2003; Health Canada, 1999.
9. See Trevethan, Tremblay and Carter, 2000.
10. Median age refers to the point where exactly one-half of the population is older, and the other half is younger.
11. See Statistics Canada, *Selected Demographic and Cultural Characteristics (205), Aboriginal Identity (8), Age Groups (6), Sex (3) and Area of Residence (7) for Population, for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2001 Census – 20% Sample Data*, Catalogue no. 97F0011XCB2001040. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
12. See Statistics Canada, *Selected Educational Characteristics (29), Aboriginal Identity (8), Age Groups (5A), Sex (3) and Area of Residence (7) for Population 15 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 2001 Census – 20% Sample Data*. Catalogue no. 97F0011XCB2001042. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
13. See Statistics Canada, *Selected Labour Force Characteristics (50), Aboriginal Identity (8), Age Groups (5A) and Sex (3) for Population 15 Years and Over, for Canada, Provinces, Territories and Census Metropolitan Areas, 2001 Census – 20% Sample Data*. Catalogue no. 97F0011XCB2001045. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
14. Income Reference Period. Income data from the 2001 census relates to the calendar year prior to the census year, i.e. 2000. For additional information, refer to the 2001 Census Dictionary, Catalogue no. 92-378. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
15. See Statistics Canada, *Selected Income Characteristics (35), Aboriginal Identity (8), Age Groups (6) and Sex (3) for Population, for Canada, Provinces, Territories and Census Metropolitan Areas, 2001 Census – 20% Sample Data*. Catalogue no. 97F0011XCB2001047. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
16. In this section, the analysis is limited to Aboriginal people living off reserve. The off-reserve population refers to those living outside of most First Nation or Band-affiliated communities. However, in this analysis, the total Aboriginal population in the Northwest Territories is included, i.e. those residing in both reserve and off-reserve areas in the Northwest Territories.
17. For this analysis, crowding refers to 1.0 or more people per room.
18. This section of the *Juristat* is based on findings from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS).
19. This section includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault. For more information, see Gannon and Mihorean, 2005.
20. Readers are cautioned that the GSS results present rates of violence committed against those who self-identified as being part of an Aboriginal group. The GSS does not identify the cultural background of the perpetrator, therefore, no assumptions should be made about the cultural identity of the accused.
21. Ideally, the following analysis examining victimization rates of Aboriginal people would be conducted by comparing groups with similar socio-economic conditions. However, sample size of the GSS is too small to support such detailed analysis.
22. Unless otherwise noted, differences between estimates are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.
23. For additional information on the GSS, refer to Methodology/Data sources.
24. The difference between the rates in 1999 and 2004 was not statistically significant.
25. Due to the fact that Aboriginal people represent a relatively small proportion of the survey sample, age groups have been combined to allow for releasable estimates.
26. A multivariate, logistic regression analysis tests for the relationships between variables controlling for the effects of other variables. A significant association in a multivariate, logistic regression analysis means that a particular independent variable is still significantly associated with a dependent variable when the effects of many other independent variables (such as ethnicity, age, income, etc.) are controlled for in a statistical test or model involving one dependent variable and more than one independent variable.
27. It is important to note that there are other possible factors that could increase or decrease the risk of violent victimization that were not included as variables in the GSS.
28. This section excludes incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault because detailed information on each spousal incident is not available.
29. Only incidents involving a single perpetrator were examined in the analysis of the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim.

30. The perpetrator was a friend, neighbour or acquaintance in most of the incidents for both Aboriginal (50%) and non-Aboriginal (37%) victims. However, this analysis excludes spousal violence. If spousal violence incidents were included in the total, the proportions of offences committed by a relative would increase.
31. Due to small sample size, reasons for reporting and non-reporting for Aboriginal people cannot be examined.
32. Respondents who were asked spousal violence questions were either married or living common-law at the time of the survey interview, or had been married or in a common-law relationship in the 5-year period preceding the survey and had had contact with their ex-partner during that 5-year period.
33. For more information on measuring spousal violence through the GSS, see Mihorean, 2005.
34. The difference between what was found in 1999 and 2004 was not statistically significant.
35. Numbers of Aboriginal men who experienced being beaten, choked, threatened with or had a gun or knife used against them, or who were sexually assaulted were too small to produce reliable estimates.
36. Due to small sample sizes, male/female comparisons for this section are not possible.
37. This section of the *Juristat* is based on findings from the Homicide survey examining Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims between 1997 and 2004. Rates, however, are calculated using data for the years 1997 through to 2000. For additional information, refer to Methodology/Data sources.
38. Over the 8-year period between 1997 and 2004, there were 4,534 homicide victims – 519 were identified as Aboriginal, 2,589 as non-Aboriginal and 1,426 were unknown or not collected. The Aboriginal status of the victim was known for 69% of victims of homicide. Analysis of victims of homicide excludes those whose Aboriginal status is unknown. The proportion of homicide victims with an unknown Aboriginal status fluctuated over the 8-year period, ranging from 15% to 45%. In some cases, this information was not known to the police at the time the data were reported. In accordance with internal guidelines, as of 1997, the Toronto Police Service and as of 2001, the RCMP ceased reporting the Aboriginal status of victims to the Homicide survey, resulting in an increase in the proportion of victims with an unknown Aboriginal status.
39. Between 1997 and 2000, an average of 18% of victims had an unknown Aboriginal status. Between 2001 and 2004, the proportion of victims with an unknown Aboriginal status increased to an average of 44%, resulting in substantial undercoverage of the Aboriginal status variable.
40. Victim homicide rates are calculated based only on homicides where the Aboriginal status of the victim was known (82% of victims). It is possible that rates for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims would be higher if the accused Aboriginal status was known for all homicides.
41. Homicide rates were calculated using an average of the 1996 Census counts and the 2001 post-censal population estimates. This was done in order to compensate for the varying growth rates of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in the absence of intercensal population data.
42. Analysis of the information on the accused-victim relationship is limited to those homicides in which an accused person was identified (solved cases).
43. Whether the victim had consumed an intoxicating substance was unknown for 26% of non-Aboriginal victims and 12% of Aboriginal victims.
44. Whether the victim had initiated the violence was unknown for 37% of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims.
45. There has been some research indicating that there is considerable variation in crime rates among Aboriginal communities and groups in Canada (Wood and Griffiths, 2000). While this section of the report examines differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people accused of homicide, it does not distinguish between Aboriginal communities nor does it distinguish between Aboriginal groups.
46. This section of the *Juristat* is based on findings from the Homicide survey examining accused between 1997 and 2004. Rates, however, are calculated using data for the years 1997 through to 2000. For additional information, refer to Methodology/Data sources.
47. Between 1997 and 2000, an average of 16% of accused had an unknown Aboriginal status. Between 2001 and 2004, the proportion of accused with an unknown Aboriginal status increased to an average of 42%, resulting in substantial undercoverage of the Aboriginal status variable.
48. Homicide rates were calculated using an average of the 1996 Census counts and the 2001 post-censal population estimates. This was done in order to compensate for the varying growth rates of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in the absence of intercensal population data.
49. Over the 8-year period between 1997 and 2004, there were 4,129 persons accused of homicide – 678 were identified as Aboriginal, 2,239 as non-Aboriginal and 1,212 were unknown. The Aboriginal status was known for 71% of those accused of homicide. Analysis of accused persons excludes those whose Aboriginal status is unknown. The proportion of those accused of homicide with an unknown Aboriginal status fluctuated over the 8-year period, ranging from 14% to 45%. In some cases, this information was not known to the police at the time the data were reported. In accordance with internal guidelines, as of 1997, the Toronto Police Service and as of 2001, the RCMP ceased reporting the Aboriginal status of accused persons to the Homicide survey, resulting in an increase in the proportion of accused with an unknown Aboriginal status.
50. When accounting for differences in population, calculations are based only on homicides where the Aboriginal status of the accused was known (84% of accused). It is possible that rates for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal accused would be higher if the accused Aboriginal status was known for all homicides.
51. First degree murder occurs when: (a) it is planned and deliberate; or (b) the victim is a person employed and acting in the course of his/her work for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace (e.g. police officer, correctional worker); or (c) the death is caused by a person committing or attempting to commit certain serious offences (e.g. treason, kidnapping, hijacking, sexual assault, robbery and arson).
52. Second degree murder is all murder that is not first degree.
53. Manslaughter is culpable homicide that is not murder or infanticide. It is generally considered to be a homicide committed in the heat of passion caused by sudden provocation.
54. Infanticide occurs when a female willfully causes the death of her newly-born child (under one year of age), if her mind is considered disturbed from the effects of giving birth or from lactation.
55. The proportions of those who did not have a charge laid or recommended against them were 2% of Aboriginal persons and 11% of non-Aboriginal persons identified in connection with the homicide. Some of the reasons for not laying a charge include the suicide or death of the person involved or the identified person is under the age of 12.
56. There were no Aboriginal women accused of infanticide over the 8-year time period.
57. It was not known whether the accused had a criminal past for 1% of Aboriginal accused and for 2% of non-Aboriginal accused.
58. It was not known whether the accused had consumed an intoxicant for 15% of Aboriginal accused and 32% of non-Aboriginal accused.
59. This text box is based on findings from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS).
60. About eight in ten Aboriginal Canadians indicated that they walk alone at night.
61. Only those who reported that there was public transportation in their city or local community and those who said that they used public transportation after dark were asked this question.

62. This section of the *Juristat* is based on findings from the on-reserve and off-reserve police-reported crime database. It is important to note that data drawn from this database identify the location of the crime (i.e., if it was committed on reserve) yet do not identify the Aboriginal status of the accused. Therefore, assumptions about the cultural identity of the accused should not be made. Unless otherwise stated, analysis of *Criminal Code* offences in this section excludes traffic offences and other federal statutes such as drug offences. On-reserve data for Ontario and Quebec included in this report largely comprise data from self-policed reserves in those provinces, as on-reserve crimes reported to the Ontario Provincial Police and Sûreté du Québec could not be distinguished from incidents committed off reserve. Therefore nationally, on-reserve crimes may be slightly under-counted as crime data for a small proportion of reserves (less than 25%) in Ontario and Quebec were included among non-reserve crime figures. For additional information, refer to Methodology/Data sources.
63. Aboriginal people make-up about 2.4% of the off-reserve population in Canada and 3.3% of the nation's total population.
64. Census of the Population, 2001.
65. In addition to these 93,000 *Criminal Code* violations, about 4,600 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents, 1,700 drug incidents (almost half of which were for possession of cannabis) and 8,100 violations of other federal statutes occurred on reserves and came to the attention of police in 2004. The UCR does not collect data on provincial or municipal by-law infractions.
66. Rates were calculated using 2001 population counts. Refer to Methodology/Data sources for further information.
67. An incident is 'cleared' when a police investigation results in the identification of a suspect against whom a charge could be laid. More precisely, an incident can be 'cleared by charge' or 'cleared otherwise'. An incident is cleared by charge when the suspect is formally charged. An incident is cleared otherwise when an investigation leads to the identification of a suspect against whom there is sufficient evidence to support the laying of charges, but does not actually result in charges being laid.
68. The criminal investigation process is often time-consuming and an offence committed in one year may not be solved for months or years after its occurrence and submission to the UCR survey. Therefore, it is possible for the number of incidents cleared in a given year to exceed the number of incidents reported to the UCR survey in that same year, and thus for the clearance rate to exceed 100%.
69. To calculate rates of adult crime on reserves, the population of adults aged 18 years and over, living on reserves is used (as is the population of adults living off reserves, used for off-reserve adult crime). However, readers should note that the cultural identity of the accused is not known. Therefore, assumptions about the cultural identity of the accused should not be made.
70. Rates were calculated using 2001 Census of Population counts. Refer to Methodology/Data sources for further information.
71. For youth crime, populations for youth aged 12 to 17 living on and off reserves are used to calculate on-reserve and off-reserve youth crime rates, respectively. However, readers should note that the cultural identity of the accused is not known. Therefore, assumptions about the cultural identity of the accused should not be made.
72. Other means for dealing with youth accused of a crime could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or referral to a community program. The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) provides police services with a number of alternatives to charging a youth, including informal police warnings, formal police cautions, referrals to community programs and referrals to extrajudicial sanctions programs, however, the use of these alternatives can vary significantly.
73. This text box is based on findings from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS).
74. It should be noted that 12% of the non-Aboriginal group reported being a visible minority. Therefore, the information on perceptions of discrimination could vary within the non-Aboriginal group. For example, considering only visible minorities, 28% reported having experienced discrimination. Similar to Aboriginal people, the most commonly cited precipitating factors for perceived discrimination against visible minorities were on the basis of race (21%) and ethnicity (18%). If visible minorities were excluded from the non-Aboriginal group, overall discrimination experienced by the non-Aboriginal group would be 12% and race and ethnicity as precipitating factors for perceived discrimination reported by non-Aboriginal people would be 3%, respectively.
75. This section of the *Juristat* is based on findings from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS). The analysis of the performance of the criminal justice system is based on the responses from all respondents to the 2004 GSS and also considers the respondents who answered 'don't know/not stated'. This was done in order to acknowledge the importance of those who had no response since this information is a crucial element in data regarding public opinion.
76. This section of the *Juristat* is based on findings from the Adult Correctional Services Survey (ACS), the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS), and the Youth Custody and Community Services Survey (YCCS).
77. For definitions of types of correctional services, refer to Methodology/Data Sources.
78. In Nunavut, Aboriginal people made up 97% of admissions to provincial custody and 79% of the provincial population. Data on admissions to provincial custody were unavailable for Newfoundland and Labrador.
79. Please note that due to data unavailability for some categories, data from Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and Northwest Territories were excluded.
80. For those jurisdictions that have consistently provided data over a time period, it is possible to examine trends in admissions to correctional services. Due to data unavailability for some years and/or categories, data from Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut were excluded.
81. This section analyzes data from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan; therefore, results may not apply to other jurisdictions.
82. This represents the unique number of people who were involved in correctional services between 2002/03 and 2003/04.
83. The representation of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services among the three provinces is as follows: 10,259 (90%) in Saskatchewan, 689 (6%) in New Brunswick and 448 (4%) in Nova Scotia.
84. Aboriginal identity was unknown for 1,761 cases, representing 4% of the total.
85. Although risk assessments are performed in most jurisdictions, only Saskatchewan was able to provide this information at this time.
86. Refer to Methodology/Data sources for definitions of the various types of needs.
87. Due to data unavailability for some categories, data for Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are excluded. These data cannot be compared to data from previous years due to differences in data availability over time.
88. For those jurisdictions who have consistently provided data over a five-year period (between 1998/1999 and 2003/2004), it is possible to examine trends in admissions to youth correctional services over time. Please note that due to data unavailability for some years and/or some categories, data from Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan and Nunavut were excluded.

89. As noted earlier, characteristics which place persons at risk for involvement in the correctional system were more prevalent in the Aboriginal population supervised in Saskatchewan corrections than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. However, even when taking many risk-related factors into consideration, Aboriginal persons consistently had higher re-involvement rates than non-Aboriginal persons. For more information, please see Johnson (2005).
90. Re-involvement is defined as a return to correctional services following complete release from involvement in correctional services.
91. This analysis employed separate multivariate stepwise logistic regression analyses for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders. A multivariate, logistic regression analysis tests for the relationships between variables controlling for the effects of other variables. A significant association in a multivariate, logistic regression analysis means that a particular independent variable is still significantly associated with a dependent variable when the effects of many other independent variables are controlled for in a statistical test or model involving one dependent variable and more than one independent variable.
92. For all follow-up analysis, persons were excluded whose involvement included only remand, bail supervision and/or certain temporary detention statuses during the release cohort year.
93. s.718.2 (e) of the *Criminal Code* provides that "all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of aboriginal offenders". In practical terms, when attempting to determine the appropriate sentence for an Aboriginal offender, the court must take into account the primary importance of restorative justice principles within Aboriginal conceptions of sentencing. This does not mean, however, that judges must always put the greatest weight on this factor, particularly when the offence is very serious.

Table 1

Feelings of safety from crime by Aboriginal status^{1,2}, 2004

	Aboriginal population	Non-Aboriginal population
	percentage of population	
While waiting for/using public transportation alone after dark, how do you feel about your safety from crime?		
Not at all worried	50	57
Somewhat worried	43	38
Very worried	F	5
Don't know/Not stated	0	1 ^E
How safe do you feel from crime when walking alone in your area after dark?		
Very safe	45	44
Reasonably safe	42	46
Somewhat or very unsafe	13	10
Don't know/Not stated	0	0 ^E
While alone in your home in the evening or at night, how do you feel about your safety from crime?		
Not at all worried	78	80
Somewhat worried	19	18
Very worried	4 ^E	2
Don't know/Not stated	0	0 ^E
In general, how do you feel about your safety from crime?		
Very satisfied	47	44
Somewhat satisfied	45	50
Somewhat dissatisfied	5 ^E	4
Very dissatisfied	2 ^E	1
Don't know/Not stated	F	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

^E use with caution

F too unreliable to be published

1. Includes only respondents who engaged in these activities.

2. Excludes responses of those whose Aboriginal status was not known or refused.

Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 2

Federal statute incidents reported to police on-reserve, 2004¹

	On-reserve			Outside reserves		
	Incidents		% of all <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic)	Incidents		% of all <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic)
	number	rate ²	percentage	number	rate ²	percentage
Homicide	41	13	0.0	581	2	0.0
Attempted murder	24	7	0.0	693	2	0.0
Robbery	162	50	0.2	27,315	93	1.1
Assault	20,804	6,464	22.3	225,843	770	9.1
Sexual assault	1,694	526	1.8	21,840	74	0.9
Other sexual offences	123	38	0.1	2,502	9	0.1
Abduction	30	9	0.0	605	2	0.0
Total violent crimes	22,878	7,108	24.6	279,379	953	11.3
Breaking and entering	7,276	2,261	7.8	267,441	912	10.8
Motor vehicle theft	2,887	897	3.1	166,657	568	6.7
Theft over \$5,000	257	80	0.3	17,037	58	0.7
Theft \$5,000 and under	7,586	2,357	8.1	673,299	2,297	27.2
Possession of stolen goods	594	185	0.6	34,806	119	1.4
Fraud	691	215	0.7	96,400	329	3.9
Total property crimes	19,291	5,994	20.7	1,255,640	4,283	50.7
Prostitution	9	3	0.0	6,484	22	0.3
Gaming and betting	2	1	0.0	191	1	0.0
Offensive weapons	1,289	400	1.4	16,713	57	0.7
Arson	603	187	0.6	12,545	43	0.5
Bail violations	5,337	1,658	5.7	98,997	338	4.0
Counterfeiting currency	282	88	0.3	159,607	544	6.4
Disturbing the peace	13,721	4,263	14.7	103,301	352	4.2
Mischief (property damage over \$5,000)	810	252	0.9	11,836	40	0.5
Mischief (property damage \$5,000 and under)	15,990	4,968	17.2	325,025	1,109	13.1
Other	12,883	4,003	13.8	209,047	713	8.4
Total other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	50,926	15,823	54.7	943,746	3,219	38.1
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic)	93,095	28,925	100.0	2,478,765	8,455	100.0
Impaired driving ³	3,661	1,138	...	75,299	257	...
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	894	278	...	39,005	133	...
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	4,555	1,415	...	114,304	390	...
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (including traffic)	97,650	30,340	...	2,593,069	8,845	...
Drugs	1,715	533	...	95,415	326	...
Other federal statutes	8,147	2,531	...	26,426	90	...
Total federal statutes (including <i>Criminal Code</i>)	107,512	33,404	...	2,714,910	9,261	...

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. On-reserve data for Ontario and Quebec included in this report largely comprise data from self-policed reserves in those provinces, as on-reserve crimes reported to the Ontario Provincial Police and Sûreté du Québec could not be distinguished from incidents committed off reserve. Therefore nationally, on-reserve crimes may be slightly under-counted as crime data for a small proportion of reserves (less than 25%) in Ontario and Quebec were included among non-reserve crime figures.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using counts from the 2001 Census of Population because population estimates for on-reserve and off-reserve populations were only available for that year. These population counts have not been adjusted for Census undercounting. Population counts for on-reserve areas are more affected than most by the incomplete enumeration of certain Indian reserves and Indian settlements. The extent of the impact will depend on the geographic area under study. In 2001, a total of 30 Indian reserves and Indian settlements were incompletely enumerated by the census. The populations of these 30 communities are not included in the census counts.

3. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg, failure/ refusal to provide a breath/ blood sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, on-reserve and off-reserve police-reported crime database.

Table 3

Adults charged with federal statute offences on-reserve, 2004^{1,2}

	On-reserve						Outside reserves					
	Total		Males		Females		Total		Males		Females	
	number	rate ³	number	rate ³	number	rate ³	number	rate ³	number	rate ³	number	rate ³
Homicide	41	21	34	35	7	7	441	2	398	4	43	0
Attempted murder	20	10	16	16	4	4	502	2	451	4	51	0
Robbery	79	41	69	71	10	10	7,045	31	6,305	58	740	6
Assault	8,319	4,306	6,573	6,760	1,746	1,819	93,088	414	76,912	707	16,176	140
Sexual assault	607	314	593	610	14	15	6,269	28	6,159	57	110	1
Other sexual offences	36	19	32	33	4	4	591	3	573	5	18	0
Abduction	1	1	0	0	1	1	119	1	53	0	66	1
Total violent crimes	9,103	4,711	7,317	7,525	1,786	1,861	108,055	481	90,851	835	17,204	149
Breaking and entering	833	431	739	760	94	98	18,857	84	17,356	159	1,501	13
Motor vehicle theft	308	159	253	260	55	57	7,621	34	6,903	63	718	6
Theft over \$5,000	35	18	22	23	13	14	1,596	7	1,195	11	401	3
Theft \$5,000 and under	437	226	323	332	114	119	56,905	253	40,222	369	16,683	144
Possession of stolen goods	230	119	197	203	33	34	19,992	89	16,217	149	3,775	33
Fraud	110	57	60	62	50	52	21,109	94	14,803	136	6,306	54
Total property crimes	1,953	1,011	1,594	1,639	359	374	126,080	561	96,696	888	29,384	254
Prostitution	2	1	2	2	0	0	3,821	17	2,015	19	1,806	16
Gaming and betting	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	1	113	1	16	0
Offensive weapons	341	176	318	327	23	24	6,616	29	6,152	57	464	4
Arson	38	20	28	29	10	10	685	3	584	5	101	1
Bail violations	2,678	1,386	2,217	2,280	461	480	66,961	298	54,514	501	12,447	107
Counterfeiting currency	5	3	4	4	1	1	1,136	5	938	9	198	2
Disturbing the peace	510	264	390	401	120	125	4,240	19	3,643	33	597	5
Mischief (property damage over \$5,000)	103	53	93	96	10	10	903	4	816	7	87	1
Mischief (property damage \$5,000 and under)	913	473	713	733	200	208	11,935	53	10,416	96	1,519	13
Other	3,160	1,635	2,671	2,747	489	509	60,774	271	52,250	480	8,524	74
Total other Criminal Code offences	7,750	4,011	6,436	6,619	1,314	1,369	157,200	700	131,441	1,207	25,759	222
Total Criminal Code offences (excluding traffic)	18,806	9,733	15,347	15,784	3,459	3,604	391,335	1,742	318,988	2,930	72,347	625
Impaired driving ⁴	1,939	1,004	1,489	1,531	450	469	61,038	272	52,712	484	8,326	72
Other Criminal Code traffic	545	282	470	483	75	78	14,256	63	12,875	118	1,381	12
Total Criminal Code traffic	2,484	1,286	1,959	2,015	525	547	75,294	335	65,587	602	9,707	84
Total Criminal Code offences (including traffic)	21,290	11,019	17,306	17,799	3,984	4,151	466,629	2,077	384,575	3,533	82,054	709
Drugs	386	200	300	309	86	90	46,067	205	39,337	361	6,730	58
Other federal statutes	420	217	300	309	120	125	5,263	23	4,594	42	669	6
Total federal statutes (including Criminal Code)	22,096	11,436	17,906	18,416	4,190	4,365	517,959	2,306	428,506	3,936	89,453	773

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. The cultural identity of the accused is not known. Therefore, assumptions about the cultural identity of the accused should not be made.

2. On-reserve data for Ontario and Quebec included in this report largely comprise data from self-policed reserves in those provinces, as on-reserve crimes reported to the Ontario Provincial Police and Sûreté du Québec could not be distinguished from incidents committed off reserve. Therefore nationally, on-reserve crimes may be slightly under-counted as crime data for a small proportion of reserves (less than 25%) in Ontario and Quebec were included among non-reserve crime figures.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using counts from the 2001 Census of Population because population estimates for on-reserve and off-reserve populations were only available for that year. These population counts have not been adjusted for Census undercounting. Population counts for on-reserve areas are more affected than most by the incomplete enumeration of certain Indian reserves and Indian settlements. The extent of the impact will depend on the geographic area under study. In 2001, a total of 30 Indian reserves and Indian settlements were incompletely enumerated by the census. The populations of these 30 communities are not included in the census counts.

4. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg, failure/ refusal to provide a breath/ blood sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, on-reserve and off-reserve police-reported crime database.

Table 4

Youth crime on-reserve, 2004^{1,2,3}

	On-reserve				Outside reserves			
	Youth charged	Youth cleared by other means ⁴	Total youth	Rate per 100,000 population ⁵	Youth charged	Youth cleared by other means ⁴	Total youth	Rate per 100,000 population ⁵
	number			rate	number			rate
Homicide	6	0	6	15	34	0	34	1
Attempted murder	1	0	1	2	47	3	50	2
Robbery	42	8	50	124	3,009	628	3,637	151
Assault	1,131	1,192	2,323	5,773	14,313	14,571	28,884	1,196
Sexual assault	101	43	144	358	1,272	1,438	2,710	112
Other sexual offences	11	3	14	35	113	167	280	12
Abduction	1	0	1	2	1	2	3	0
Total violent crimes	1,293	1,246	2,539	6,310	18,789	16,809	35,598	1,474
Breaking and entering	922	842	1,764	4,384	8,889	5,807	14,696	609
Motor vehicle theft	247	224	471	1,170	4,110	1,846	5,956	247
Theft over \$5,000	10	10	20	50	159	153	312	13
Theft \$5,000 and under	184	656	840	2,087	9,748	30,500	40,248	1,667
Possession of stolen goods	78	27	105	261	4,739	2,414	7,153	296
Fraud	8	13	21	52	1,223	1,421	2,644	109
Total property crimes	1,449	1,772	3,221	8,004	28,868	42,141	71,009	2,941
Prostitution	1	0	1	2	33	36	69	3
Gaming and betting	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0
Offensive weapons	92	80	172	427	1,515	1,714	3,229	134
Arson	47	35	82	204	440	958	1,398	58
Bail violations	515	73	588	1,461	10,759	908	11,667	483
Counterfeiting currency	1	0	1	2	217	277	494	20
Disturbing the peace	80	633	713	1,772	612	5,792	6,404	265
Mischief (property damage over \$5,000)	23	39	62	154	336	518	854	35
Mischief (property damage \$5,000 and under)	341	1,132	1,473	3,661	4,840	16,984	21,824	904
Other	435	528	963	2,393	7,414	9,623	17,037	706
Total other Criminal Code offences	1,535	2,520	4,055	10,077	26,166	36,816	62,982	2,608
Total Criminal Code offences (excluding traffic)	4,277	5,538	9,815	24,391	73,823	95,766	169,589	7,023
Impaired driving ⁶	54	7	61	152	0	178	178	7
Other Criminal Code traffic	44	11	55	137	0	225	225	9
Total Criminal Code traffic	98	18	116	288	0	403	403	17
Total Criminal Code offences (including traffic)	4,375	5,556	9,931	24,679	73,823	96,169	169,992	7,039
Drugs	57	126	183	455	6,000	11,898	17,898	741
Other federal statutes	128	469	597	1,484	4,751	2,068	6,819	282
Total federal statutes (including Criminal Code)	4,560	6,151	10,711	26,618	84,574	110,135	194,709	8,063

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Youth represents the population aged 12 to 17 years.

2. The cultural identity of the accused is not known. Therefore, assumptions about the cultural identity of the accused should not be made.

3. On-reserve data for Ontario and Quebec included in this report largely comprise data from self-policed reserves in those provinces, as on-reserve crimes reported to the Ontario Provincial Police and Sûreté du Québec could not be distinguished from incidents committed off reserve. Therefore nationally, on-reserve crimes may be slightly under-counted as crime data for a small proportion of reserves (less than 25%) in Ontario and Quebec were included among non-reserve crime figures.

4. Other means for dealing with youth accused of a crime could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or referral to a community program.

5. Rates have been rounded to the nearest decimal. They have been calculated using population counts from the 2001 Census of Population because population estimates for on-reserve and off-reserve populations were only available for that year. These population counts have not been adjusted for Census undercounting. Population counts for on-reserve areas are more affected than most by the incomplete enumeration of certain Indian reserves and Indian settlements. The extent of the impact will depend on the geographic area under study. In 2001, a total of 30 Indian reserves and Indian settlements were incompletely enumerated by the census. The populations of these 30 communities are not included in the census counts.

6. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg, failure/ refusal to provide a breath/ blood sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, on-reserve and off-reserve police-reported crime database.

Table 5

Percentage of adult admissions to remand, provincial/territorial sentenced custody, probation and conditional sentence accounted for by Aboriginal people, by jurisdiction, 2003/04

	Percent Aboriginal				Total adult population ¹
	Remand	Provincial/territorial sentenced custody	Probation	Conditional sentence	
Newfoundland and Labrador ²	..	..	..	..	3.2
Prince Edward Island	4.8	2.0	..	..	0.8
Nova Scotia	7.4	7.3	6.7	7.0	1.5
New Brunswick	8.5	8.9	7.4	8.3	2.0
Quebec	3.8	2.4	7.2	5.8	0.9
Ontario	8.6	8.8	6.5	8.4	1.5
Manitoba	62.1	68.2	50.4	44.4	10.6
Saskatchewan	77.5	80.2	66.6	71.8	9.9
Alberta	27.9	38.7	23.6	16.5	4.2
British Columbia	22.2	19.8	19.0	16.9	3.6
Yukon	77.9	72.9	61.3	65.6	19.9
Northwest Territories	85.3	87.5	..	..	44.7
Nunavut	97.4	97.1	98.9	97.9	78.5
Total (all available data)	17.6	21.2	15.7	18.5	..
Adjusted total ²	17.5	20.8	15.7	18.5	2.6

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Indicates the percentage of the total adult population who are Aboriginal per jurisdiction as of the 2001 Census.

2. Due to missing data for some categories Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Northwest Territories data were excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey; Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics.

Table 6

Number and percent of adult admissions to remand, provincial/territorial sentenced custody, federal sentenced custody, probation and conditional sentences accounted for by Aboriginal people, 1994/95, 1999/00 to 2003/04

	Custody													Community				
													Federal sentenced custody	Probation ¹		Conditional sentence ¹		
	Remand ¹						Provincial/territorial sentenced custody ¹											
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total							Total
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%		
1994/95	10,378	11	1,403	14	11,781	11	14,689	15	2,447	25	17,136	16	.	13	8,626	12	...	...
1999/00	13,892	15	1,863	18	15,755	16	11,430	16	1,903	26	13,333	17	.	17	8,683	13	2,074	15
2000/01	15,572	16	2,040	19	17,612	16	11,526	17	1,894	27	13,420	18	.	18	9,242	13	2,413	17
2001/02	12,233	12	2,097	18	14,336	13	11,578	17	1,988	28	13,568	18	.	18	9,226	13	2,344	15
2002/03	12,987	13	2,190	18	15,179	14	11,986	18	2,173	29	14,163	19	.	18	9,299	13	2,560	16
2003/04	13,055	13	2,751	23	15,813	14	11,731	18	2,123	29	13,858	19	.	18	9,090	13	2,543	16

.. not available for any reference period

... not applicable

1. Due to missing data for some years, values exclude Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Note: Totals include values where sex was not stated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 7

Characteristics of all persons¹ involved in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal identity, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan 2002/03 to 2003/04

	Total ²		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Total	39,275	100.0	11,396	100.0	26,118	100.0
Jurisdiction						
Nova Scotia	11,972	30.5	448	3.9	11,523	44.1
New Brunswick	10,043	25.6	689	6.0	9,063	34.7
Saskatchewan	17,260	43.9	10,259	90.0	5,532	21.2
Sex						
Male	33,268	84.8	9,333	81.9	22,561	86.6
Female	5,946	15.2	2,057	18.1	3,504	13.4
Unknown	61	0.2	6	0.1	53	0.2
Age at first involvement admission date						
Under 18	13	0.0	x	x	x	x
18-19	3,233	8.2	957	8.4	2,060	7.9
20-24	8,480	21.6	2,688	23.6	5,369	20.6
25-29	6,201	15.8	2,129	18.7	3,807	14.6
30-34	5,595	14.2	1,899	16.7	3,483	13.3
35-39	5,233	13.3	1,582	13.9	3,442	13.2
40-44	4,341	11.1	1,091	9.6	3,088	11.8
45-49	2,718	6.9	539	4.7	2,069	7.9
over 50	3,426	8.7	507	4.4	2,757	10.6
Unknown	35	0.1	x	x	x	x
Mean (standard deviation)	32.8	(11.3)	30.9	(9.6)	33.7	(11.9)
Median	31.0		29.0		32.0	
Marital status³						
Single - never married	17,510	54.7	5,721	51.0	11,426	56.9
Married	3,521	11.0	1,040	9.3	2,372	11.8
Common-law	6,860	21.4	3,370	30.1	3,354	16.7
Separated/Divorced	3,892	12.2	996	8.9	2,784	13.9
Widowed	214	0.7	80	0.7	131	0.7
Unknown	7,278	18.5	189	1.7	6,051	23.2
Education completed²						
Some primary	1,797	6.2	1,001	9.6	752	4.2
Completed primary	2,384	8.2	1,028	9.8	1,316	7.3
Some secondary	9,813	33.9	5,742	54.9	3,898	21.7
Completed secondary	12,500	43.2	2,216	21.2	10,048	56.0
Some post-secondary	715	2.5	249	2.4	453	2.5
Completed post-secondary	1,715	5.9	228	2.2	1,449	8.1
No formal education	24	0.1	0	0.0	23	0.1
Unknown	10,327	26.3	932	8.2	8,179	31.3
Employment status at admission²						
Unemployed (but able to work)	14,741	48.2	5,001	47.6	9,418	48.7
Employed (part-time, full-time)	12,546	41.0	3,663	34.8	8,548	44.2
Not employable - disabled, medical reasons, etc.	782	2.6	457	4.3	295	1.5
Student - not employed	1,473	4.8	715	6.8	726	3.8
Other - not employed	1,059	3.5	681	6.5	355	1.8
Unknown	8,674	22.1	879	7.7	6,776	25.9

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Represents the unique number of persons who were involved in correctional services between 2002/03 and 2003/04.

2. Includes 1,761 (4%) cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

3. Refers to most recent status as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

Note: Unknown values are excluded from percent calculations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 8

Percentage of youth admissions to remand, open custody, secure custody and probation accounted for by Aboriginal people, by jurisdiction, 2003/04

	Percent Aboriginal				Total youth population
	Remand	Open custody	Secure custody	Probation	
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.0	8.6	8.0	4.4	5.3
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	1.4
Nova Scotia	5.9	7.6	0.0	6.3	2.7
New Brunswick	5.1	4.2	7.3	7.5	3.0
Quebec	..	..	..	..	1.6
Ontario	..	8.3	11.1	6.2	2.2
Manitoba	71.0	81.2	76.8	55.8	19.0
Saskatchewan	..	83.5	74.8	65.0	19.3
Alberta	38.6	43.5	37.0	29.4	7.5
British Columbia	35.5	35.5	31.8	28.5	6.6
Yukon	91.3	100.0	100.0	83.3	25.9
Northwest Territories	87.5	100.0	83.3	..	62.7
Nunavut	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	94.8

.. not available for a specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Youth represents the population aged 12 to 17 years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Correctional Services Survey; Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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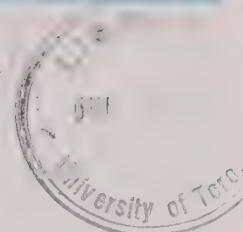
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Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005

by Maire Gannon



Highlights

- The overall crime rate dropped 5% in 2005. Decreases were seen in most crimes, with the exception of the serious crimes of homicide, attempted murder, assault with a weapon, aggravated assault and robbery.
- The national crime rate had increased during the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, peaking in 1991. Crime rates then fell throughout the rest of the 1990s, stabilizing somewhat in the early 2000s.
- The overall decrease was driven by declines in non-violent crimes, with property crime falling 6% and other *Criminal Code* offences falling 5%. In particular, large drops were reported for break-ins (-7%), motor vehicle thefts (-7%), counterfeiting (-20%) and thefts under \$5,000 (-6%).
- Declines in crime rates were observed in all provinces and territories. The largest provincial drops were reported in Manitoba (-8%), New Brunswick (-8%), and Saskatchewan (-6%).
- After increasing 13% in 2004, the homicide rate increased by 4% in 2005. There were 658 homicides in 2005, 34 more than in 2004. The 2005 homicide rate was the highest since 1996. Attempted murders were also on the rise, up 14% from the previous year.
- In 2005, police reported the first decrease in counterfeiting in 5 years. The 20% drop may be attributed to the recent introduction of enhanced security features to the most common denominations, such as the \$20 bill, which make it more difficult to illegally produce paper currency.
- Drug offences decreased for the second time in three years, dropping 6%. Cannabis offences accounted for the majority of drug offences, and fell 12%.
- The youth crime rate, as measured by the number of youths formally charged plus youths cleared by means other than the laying of a charge, dropped 6%. Youth violent crime dropped 2%, while youth property crime was down 12%.
- Since the introduction of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in 2003, the proportion of apprehended youths who are formally charged by police has dropped from 56% in 2002 (pre-YCJA) to 43% in 2005 (post-YCJA).



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Introduction

Official crime statistics, also known as police-reported crime data, can be used to examine the prevalence, nature and impact of crime. In Canada, these statistics have been systematically collected since 1962 through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. The survey captures actual criminal incidents that have come to the attention of police, as well as those that have been detected through police investigation. All police services participate in the survey by submitting data to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) according to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions. This allows for not only an evaluation of long and short term trends in violent and property crime, but also variations by province/territory and Census Metropolitan Area.

To further place the magnitude of crime in perspective, crime comparisons between Canada and its largest trading partner and neighbour, the United States, can be drawn. This can be reliably done by examining methodologically comparable offence categories.¹

The CCJS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada's police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in making this report possible.

Factors influencing police-reported crime rates

Crime rates are influenced by both actual changes in behavioural patterns, namely variations in the number of individuals committing offences, and shifts in the criminal justice and societal response to specific behaviours. Changes in actual behaviours or the commission of crimes do not occur in isolation of other social, economic or demographic conditions. In fact, previous research has suggested that many factors are correlated to higher levels of crime at particular points in time or for specific regions.

For example, a recent study examining crime trends and its association with socio-economic indicators found links between certain factors and crime types (Pottie Bunge, et. al, 2005). Specifically, trends in financially-motivated crimes, namely robbery, motor vehicle thefts and break and enter were positively correlated with shifts in inflation rates. The influence of inflation rates could be explained by the reduction in purchasing power of goods and services, the uncertainty of the future financial situation, and the subsequent allure of illegal criminal activity to obtain material goods. Only one financially-motivated crime, break and enter, was influenced by shifts in the population of persons aged 15 to 24 years, the most criminally active age group. Lastly, in the study's examination of homicide trends, it was found that changes in unemployment rates and alcohol consumption were associated with shifts in the prevalence of homicides.

Shifts in the criminal justice and societal responses to certain acts can have an equally important impact on the number of police-reported criminal incidents. The introduction of a new offence, such as criminal harassment, or a modification to an existing offence can increase the number of criminal incidents that come to the attention of police. Also, changes in enforcement practices or special targeted operations will impact the prevalence rates for certain crimes, particularly those that are not often reported to police. Examples of offences that reflect more the level of police enforcement than actual behavioural patterns include drug offences and prostitution.

1. A feasibility study on crime comparisons between Canada and the United States was conducted in 2001 to examine the comparability of offence definitions, classifications, and scoring rules between the Uniform Crime Reporting Surveys of the two countries (Gannon, 2001). The study concluded that seven offence-level crimes could be reliably compared, with some minor modifications or caveats.

In addition, differences in the reporting structures of police services can influence the number of incidents recorded. Some police agencies maintain call centres to receive and record criminal incidents, while others require victims to report crimes in person. The ease of public reporting can consequently impact whether a criminal incident is collected by police services and forwarded on to the UCR program.

On the societal side, the public's decrease in tolerance for certain criminal acts, such as spousal assault, can lead to a rise in reporting rates to police and a subsequent increase in actual criminal incidents investigated and recorded by police. Similarly, changes in the victim's desire to involve police can influence police-reported statistics. One way to measure reporting rates to police is to examine the complementary source of information on crime: victimization surveys, namely the General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization. This survey captures incidents of victimization that are both reported and unreported to police (see Box 1).

Text box 1

The General Social Survey on Victimization: Another measurement of crime

Similar to other industrialized countries, crime in Canada is also measured using victimization surveys. Unlike police-reported statistics (the UCR survey), these data are based on a telephone-administered survey conducted every five years that asks Canadians aged 15 years and older about their personal experiences of victimization and whether or not the incident was reported to police.

The GSS collects information on eight crime types. Among these crime types, only four are directly comparable to the UCR: physical assault, sexual assault, break and enter, and motor vehicle theft. Overall, findings from the GSS show that reporting rates to police decreased slightly between the two most recent survey periods, from 37% in 1999 to 34% in 2004 (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005). The results also suggest that the level of reporting to police varies by offence type and region. In 2004, 34% of violent victimization incidents were reported to the police. This includes a 39% reporting rate for physical assaults, 8% for sexual assaults, and 46% for personal robberies. It is noteworthy that over half of the unreported violent incidents did not come to the attention of police because the victim felt the incident was not important enough. This suggests that the crime may have been too minor to warrant police involvement. Other reasons for not reporting include not wanting the police involved and feeling that the incident was a personal matter. The public rates of reporting to police were highest for the most serious types of property offences, with a reporting rate of 54% for break and enters and 49% for motor vehicle thefts.

2005 Crime Data

In 2005, about 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic incidents and other federal statutes such as drug offences) were reported by police. Of these, 12% were violent crimes, 48% were property crimes, and the remaining 40% were other *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief, counterfeiting, disturbing the peace and bail violations (Table 1). The distribution of offences has steadily changed over the last twenty-five years. In 1980, violent crimes represented a smaller percentage of all crimes (8%), property crimes had a higher

Text box 2

Key terminology and definitions

Criminal Incident

One incident can include more than one offence. For incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted. Except for robbery, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime.

Crime rate

Crime rates are based on the number of incidents reported to police per 100,000 population. Rates are used to make comparisons among geographic areas with different populations and over time. The "crime rate" represents total *Criminal Code* incidents, excluding traffic violations. It does not include other federal statutes, such as drug offences.

Accused persons

Includes all persons identified by police as having committed a crime, and against whom enough evidence exists to lay a charge, regardless of whether they have been formally charged with an offence.

Persons cleared by charge

This term refers to persons who have been formally charged or recommended to be charged by police.

Persons cleared otherwise

This term refers to people who have not been formally charged by police, though there is sufficient evidence for the police to do so. This could occur for a number of reasons: the police may have used discretion and decided not to lay a charge (e.g., use of extrajudicial measures for youth), the complainant did not want police to lay a charge, the accused was involved in other incidents in which one or more charges were laid, death of the accused, or the accused was under the age of 12.

For more information on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report.

representation (65%), and other *Criminal Code* offences had a lower representation (27%).

In addition to the above offences, there were approximately 119,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (of which nearly two-thirds were for impaired driving), over 92,000 drug incidents and over 31,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, *Canada Shipping Act*). In all, police reported 2.7 million criminal incidents in 2005.

It is important to note that when making comparisons (across provinces, CMAs or historically), UCR data are subject to certain data quality limitations which are detailed in the Methodology section.

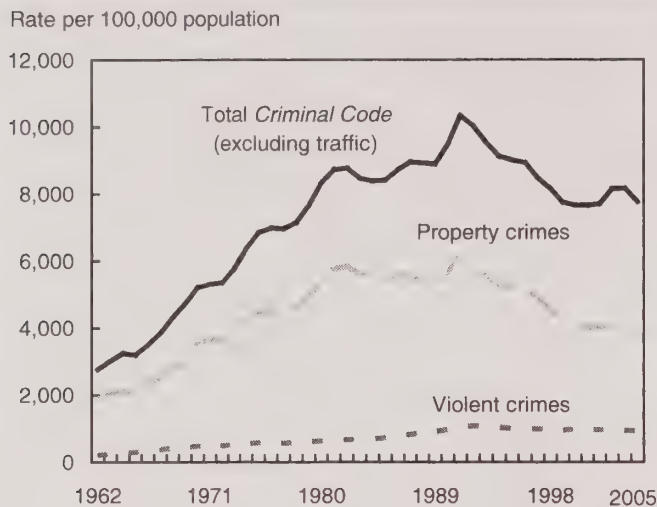
2005 Crime Trends

Crime rate drops 5% in 2005

The crime rate decreased 5% in 2005, primarily fuelled by non-violent crimes (Figure 1). Property crimes decreased by 6%, while other *Criminal Code* offences dropped by 5%. The rate of violent crime remained stable, despite higher counts of homicides and attempted murders.

Figure 1

Crime rate peaked in 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The national crime rate had increased during the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, peaking in 1991. Crime rates then fell throughout the rest of the 1990s, stabilizing somewhat in the early 2000s. In 2005, the overall crime rate was similar to the rate in 2002 (Table 2).

Every province and territory contributed to the drop in 2005. The largest decreases among the provinces were found in Manitoba (-8%), New Brunswick (-8%) and Saskatchewan (-6%).

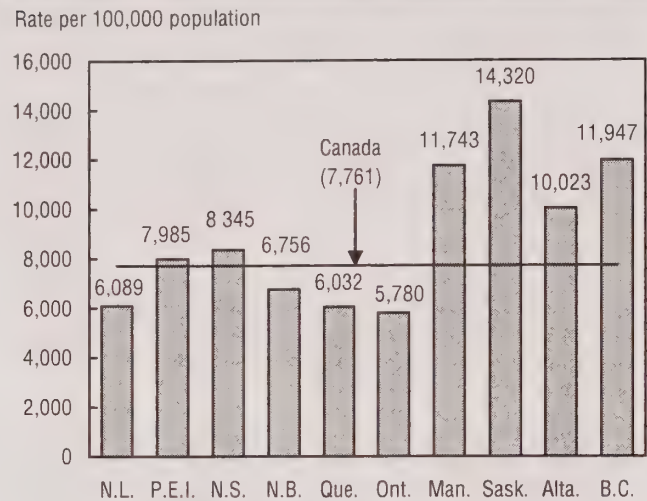
Crime varies across the country

There are substantial regional differences in crime rates. Prior to 2002, crime rates historically increased from east to west. However, in recent years, Ontario and Quebec recorded lower rates than most Atlantic provinces. This was further reinforced in 2005, as Ontario and Quebec recorded rates that were lower than *all* Atlantic provinces (Figure 2). The western provinces continued to have the highest rates among the provinces and consistent with previous years, rates in the three territories far surpassed those recorded by the provinces. It should be noted that crime rates in the territories can have large year-over-year fluctuations due to their relatively small populations.

Provincial crime rates varied from a low of 5,780 incidents per 100,000 population in Ontario to a high of 14,320 in Saskatchewan (Table 3). Among the Atlantic provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest recorded crime rate for the 22nd consecutive year, while for the western provinces, Alberta had the lowest rate for the 13th straight year.

Figure 2

Quebec and Ontario have lowest crime rates, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Text box 3

Crime rates in the territories

While the actual number of criminal incidents is relatively low in the territories, when calculated as a rate per 100,000 population the overall crime rate is substantially higher compared to the provinces. This has been the case historically.

In 2005, the crime rates in the three territories ranged from three times higher than the national average in the Yukon to five times higher in the Northwest Territories. Despite having much higher rates for total violent crimes, robbery rates in the territories were among the lowest in the country, with rates that were comparable to those in the Atlantic provinces. In addition, the overall rates of property crime in the territories were only slightly higher than the rates recorded by the western provinces.

Crime rates in census metropolitan areas

The nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)² represent nearly half (47%) of all offences reported by police services in Canada and account for 50% of the national population. In 2005, crime rates declined in eight of these nine census metropolitan areas (CMAs) (Table 4). The largest decreases were observed in Winnipeg (-8%) and Edmonton (-8%). The only CMA to remain relatively stable was Ottawa, where the crime rate was up slightly (+1%).

2. A census metropolitan area refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been modified slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police services serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these services difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single metropolitan area.

Similar to the larger CMAs, nearly all of the smaller 18 CMAs (CMAs with populations between 100,000 and 500,000) reported drops in crime, with the exception of London, which recorded an increase of 2%. Three of the smaller CMAs had double digit decreases, with the largest being recorded by Sherbrooke (-18%).

Among all 27 CMAs, the lowest rates belonged to Quebec CMAs. Specifically, Saguenay recorded the lowest crime rate for the fourth consecutive year, followed by Québec, Trois-Rivières, and Sherbrooke. Saskatoon's rate edged higher than Regina's rate in 2005 for the second time since 1995, making it the CMA with the highest crime rate. This switch can be explained by the fact that Regina's rate decrease (-15%) far surpassed the drop recorded by Saskatoon (-4%). Other CMAs with a crime rate of over 10,000 were all in the western provinces and included Abbotsford, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Edmonton.

In many instances, a number of police services are responsible for policing a single CMA. Therefore, to better understand how and where crime rates are changing within a CMA, it is often important to examine specific police services covering that area (Table 5). For example, within the CMA of Toronto, the decrease in crime rates varied widely from very little change recorded by Toronto Police (+1%) to a 17% decline by York Regional Police.

Text box 4

Crime Comparisons between Canada and the United States¹

To place Canada's crime rate in perspective, crime comparisons are often drawn to other industrialized countries, particularly Canada's largest trading partner and neighbour, the United States. To accurately and reliably compare rates between Canada and the United States, it is important to acknowledge and account for any methodological differences in the two national Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) programs, the administrative surveys used to collect police-reported data in the two countries. Based on the findings of a study conducted to assess the comparability of offence types, it is possible to compare rates for seven offence types captured by the UCR programs (Gannon, 2001). These offences include homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, break and enter, motor vehicle theft, thefts, and arson.

Consistent with previous years, police-reported crime data show that the United States had much higher rates of violent crimes, while Canada generally had slightly higher levels of property crimes. In 2004, the rate of homicide in the U.S. nearly tripled the rate recorded in Canada. There were 5.5 homicides per 100,000 population in the United States, compared to 2.0 homicides per 100,000 in Canada. The difference in rates was slightly less pronounced for the other violent crimes. The U.S. recorded a rate of aggravated assault 85% greater than Canada and a rate of robbery that was 59% higher.

Canadians were more likely than Americans to be victims of two of the three types of comparable property crimes. The Canadian break and enter rate of 863 break and enters per 100,000 population was 18% higher than the American break and enter rate of 730 per 100,000. Similarly, the rate of motor vehicle thefts was 26% greater in Canada than in the U.S. Other thefts, which in Canada includes thefts over and under \$5,000, was 9% lower compared to the rates in the U.S.

1. At the time of publication, final 2005 UCR data were not available from the United States. Therefore, crime comparisons are based on 2004 data from Canada and the U.S.

Violent Crime

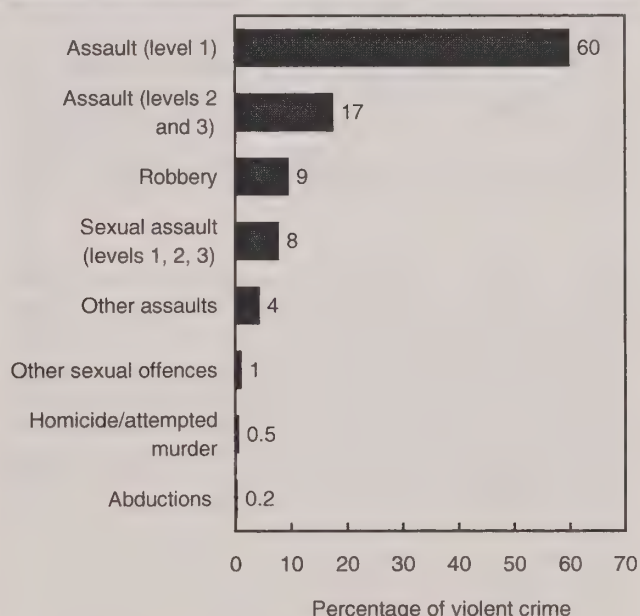
Violent crime rate unchanged in 2005

There are a number of *Criminal Code* offences that are considered violent crimes, namely violations involving violence or the threat of violence, as well as violations resulting in the deprivation of freedom. In particular, violent crime is comprised of homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other assaults, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery. There were about 304,000 violent incidents in 2005, resulting in a rate that was similar to the 2004 rate. In general, the violent crime rate had been falling since the mid-1990s, after increasing fairly steadily for thirty years.

The stability in 2005 can be explained by an increase in the most serious lower volume crimes, such as homicide and attempted murders, and a corresponding decrease (-2%) in the most frequent violent offence, common assault.

Figure 3

Majority of violent crimes are level 1 assaults¹, 2005



1. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

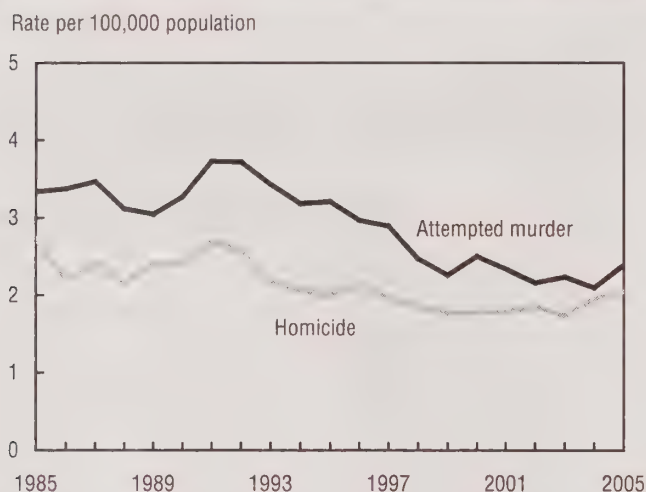
For the eighth year in a row, Saskatchewan reported the highest violent crime rate among the provinces, despite the fact that it reported a decrease in violent crime (Table 3). Saskatchewan's rate was 24% higher than the next highest province, Manitoba. Consistent with their ranking for over the past decade, Quebec recorded the lowest violent crime rate (a rate of 739 in 2005), even though it experienced an increase in violent crime in 2005 (+2%). For the fourth straight year, Ontario had the second lowest violent crime rate (748).

Homicides on the rise

Homicide, the most serious of all criminal acts, includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide. Following a 13% increase in 2004, the homicide rate increased by a further 4% in 2005. Police services reported a total of 658 homicides in 2005, 34 more than in 2004. The rate of 2.0 homicides per 100,000 population was the highest since 1996, although still 25% lower than 20 years ago (Figure 4). Rates of attempted murders also increased in 2005 (+14%). There were 772 attempted murders in 2005, 101 more than the previous year.

Figure 4

Rates of homicide¹ and attempted murder increased in 2005



1. As a result of investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The rise in the number of homicides at the national level was primarily driven by large increases in Ontario (+31) and Alberta (+23). The only provincial decreases in the number of homicides were seen in British Columbia (-15), Quebec (-11) and Manitoba (-1).

The lowest homicide rates were reported by Prince Edward Island, where no homicides were recorded, followed by New Brunswick (1.2 homicides per 100,000 population) and Quebec (1.3) (Figure 5). This regional pattern differs slightly from previous years when the lowest rates solely belonged to the Atlantic provinces. The highest homicide rates were found in Saskatchewan (4.3), Manitoba (4.2), and Alberta (3.3).

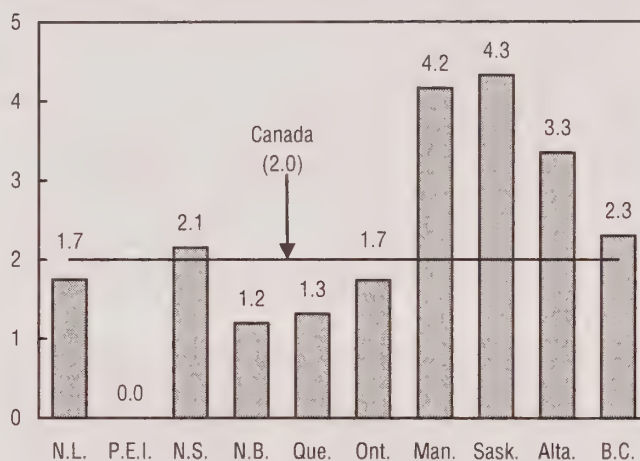
Among the nine largest CMAs, six recorded a greater number of homicides in 2005 compared to 2004. With one of the

largest increases in homicide counts (from 34 to 44 homicides), Edmonton recorded the highest rate (4.3). After nearly doubling its rate in 2004, the number of homicides in Winnipeg dropped in 2005. However, Winnipeg still had the second highest homicide rate (3.7), followed by Vancouver (2.9). The lowest rates were reported in Québec (0.7), Ottawa (1.3) and Montréal (1.3) (Table 4).

Figure 5

Highest homicide rates in the west, 2005

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

When considering the 18 smaller CMAs, Regina reported the highest homicide rate (4.0), with 8 homicides, followed by Saskatoon (3.7). Three CMAs had no homicides in 2005: Saint John, Sherbrooke, and Trois-Rivières.

Robberies up in 2005

In total, there were almost 29,000 robberies in 2005. The robbery rate was 3% higher than in 2004; however, it was about 15% lower than a decade ago and 25% lower than the 1991 peak (Figure 6). The robbery rate has generally been declining since 1991.

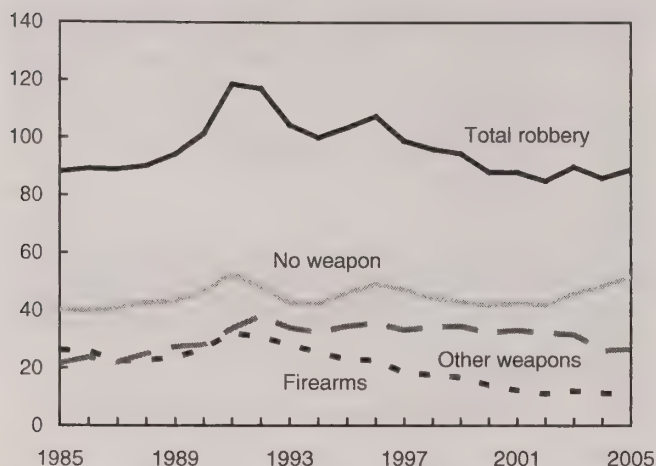
Over half (58%) of robberies reported to police in 2005 were committed without a weapon. Firearms were used in 12% of robberies, while just under one-third (30%) involved another type of weapon.

Robberies without a weapon increased by 6% in 2005 (Figure 6). The rate of firearm robberies was down 5%, while the rate of robberies with another type of weapon was similar to the previous year (+1%).

Figure 6

Overall rate of robbery up, but robberies with firearms continue to decline

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Half the provinces recorded increases in robbery rates, with the largest occurring in Newfoundland and Labrador (+18%) and Manitoba (+14%). Declines in robbery rates were observed in two provinces: Prince Edward Island (-35%) and Nova Scotia (-5%). With relatively few robberies, Prince Edward Island had the lowest overall robbery rate with 12 incidents per 100,000 population, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick. The highest robbery rates were reported by the western provinces, with the highest in Manitoba.

At the CMA level, robbery rates increased in seven of the nine largest CMAs. Rates in Hamilton and Winnipeg saw a large spike in 2005, increasing 16% and 15% respectively.

Robbery tends to be an offence for which there is a wide range in rates among the CMAs. Winnipeg had the highest robbery rate among all CMAs, followed by Saskatoon. The lowest rate was recorded by Saguenay, a CMA which has experienced the lowest robbery rates for seven consecutive years.

Sexual assault rates stable

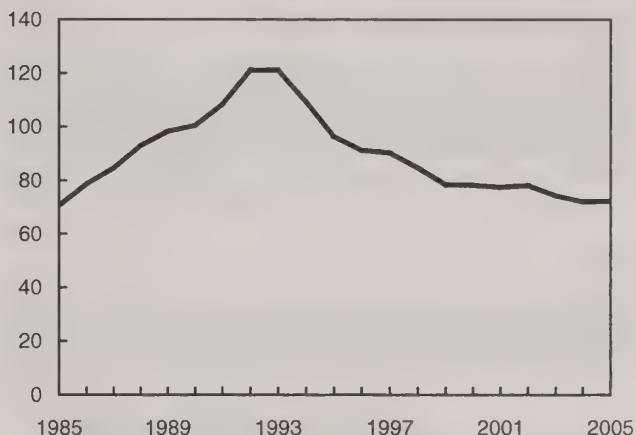
Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 (the category of least physical injury to the victim); level 2 (sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm); and level 3 (sexual assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim). Among the over 23,000 sexual assaults reported by police in 2005, 98% were classified as level 1.

The sexual assault rate remained unchanged in 2005, but was 25% lower than a decade ago (Figure 7). The sexual assault rate peaked in the early 1990s and has generally been declining since.

Figure 7

Rate of sexual assaults stable in 2005

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Driving the overall trend, the rate of level 1 sexual assaults remained stable in 2005. The same was also true for the rate of sexual assault with a weapon. The most serious type of sexual assaults, level 3 aggravated sexual assaults, dropped 11%.

Nearly all provinces reported decreases or stability in sexual assault rates in 2005. The largest drops were recorded by New Brunswick (-14%), Manitoba (-11%) and Alberta (-10%). Only Quebec and British Columbia reported increases (15% and 2%, respectively). Despite the increase, Quebec's rate of sexual assault continued to be among the lowest along with Prince Edward Island and Ontario. The highest rates were reported in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The national rate of "other sexual offences" increased 4% in 2005. These offences include invitation to sexual touching, sexual interference, sexual exploitation, and incest.

Assaults remain virtually unchanged

There were nearly 235,000 assaults reported by police. These include the three levels of assaults as defined by the *Criminal Code*: level 1 or common assault, the least serious form including behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face threats; level 2 assaults, defined as assaults with a weapon or causing bodily harm; and level 3 aggravated assaults.

The 2005 assault rate was similar to the rate in 2004 (-1%). Common assault, which represents the vast majority of all assaults, was down 2% in 2005. However, the most serious types of assaults rose. Assault with a weapon increased 5%, while aggravated assault climbed 10%.

Nearly 13,000 "other assaults", such as assaults against a police officer and unlawfully causing bodily harm, were recorded in 2005, similar to the previous year (-1%).

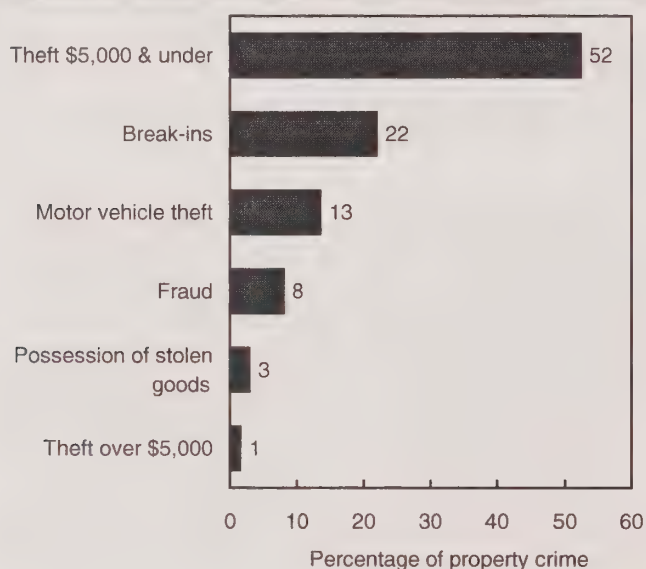
Property Crime

Property crimes on the decline

Property crimes are committed with the intent to acquire property without violence or the threat of violence. In 2005, police reported about 1.2 million property crimes. Among the most common were thefts, break and enters, thefts of motor vehicles and fraud (Figure 8). Theft, other than vehicle thefts, accounted for more than half of all property crimes.

Figure 8

Minor thefts account for over half of property crimes¹, 2005



1. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The property crime rate decreased for the second consecutive year, dropping 6%. This puts the property crime rate at the lowest level recorded in over 30 years. The decrease was driven by drops in nearly all property crimes.

Rates of property crime fell in every province. The most substantial declines were recorded in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (-12% each). Consistent with previous years,

Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest rate in the country. Western provinces recorded the highest property crime rates with rates above the national average, with the highest in British Columbia.

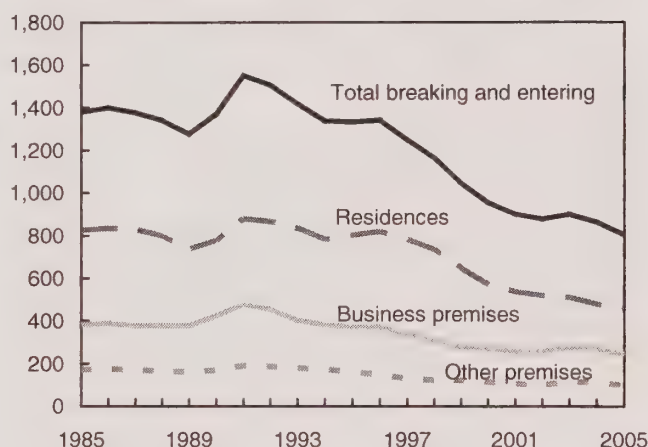
Break and enters continue to decline

Break and enter represents the third largest offence category, accounting for 1 in 10 *Criminal Code* incidents and about 1 in 5 property crimes reported by police. The rate of break-ins decreased 7% in 2005. This was the second consecutive drop, following the first increase in 10 years in 2003. The 2005 rate was 40% lower compared to a decade ago (Figure 9).

Figure 9

Break-ins continue to decrease in 2005

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

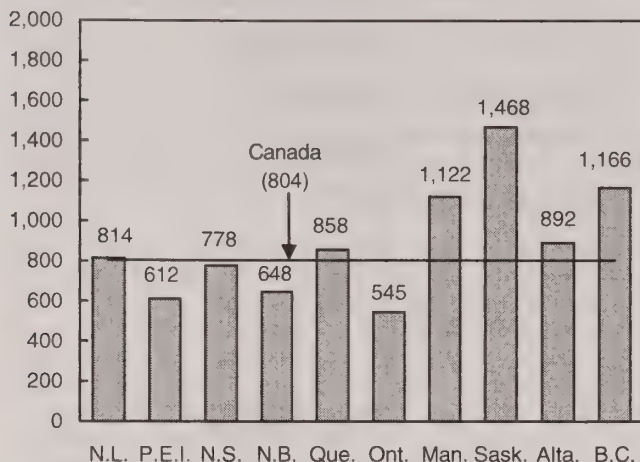
Over half (57%) of all break-ins occurred in residences, another 31% took place in businesses and 12% in other locations, such as schools, sheds, and detached garages. The rate of break-ins dropped in all types of locations, falling 4% for residential break-ins, 8% for break-ins at businesses, and 14% for break and enters at all other locations.

Provincially, overall rates of break-ins were down in every province, with the exception of Prince Edward Island where rates were up 3%, and Quebec where rates remained virtually unchanged (-1%) (Figure 10). Even with this increase, Prince Edward Island had the second lowest rate, after Ontario. Saskatchewan continued to have the highest rate of break-ins, despite experiencing the largest decrease in 2005 (-14%). The next highest rates were recorded by the other western provinces. This regional pattern is consistent with previous years.

Figure 10

Saskatchewan had highest rate of break-ins in 2005

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Among the nine largest CMAs, Ottawa, Quebec and Montréal reported notable increases in break-ins. The rate of break-ins continued to drop in Toronto, falling 13% in 2005. Toronto's rate was the lowest among not only the largest CMAs, but all 27 CMAs in Canada. Among the smaller CMAs, Gatineau was the sole CMA to report an increase, up 3% from the previous year. Corresponding to the high rates in the province of Saskatchewan, rates of break-ins were highest in Regina and Saskatoon.

Motor vehicle thefts drop for a second consecutive year

Motor vehicle theft consists of taking, or attempting to take, a vehicle without the owner's authorization. In 2005, police reported over 160,000 motor vehicle thefts. The motor vehicle theft rate was 7% lower than the rate recorded in 2004 and 18% lower than the peak in 1996. However, it remained 56% higher than 20 years ago. Motives behind the theft of motor vehicles vary from thrill-seeking, to transportation from one location to another, to the use of stolen vehicles in the commission of other criminal offences, to organized crime involvement (see Wallace, 2003). Motor vehicle theft also involves the risk of serious injury or death when the driver attempts to flee from police pursuit.

Thieves continue to target cars to a greater degree than any other type of vehicle, with over half (56%) of vehicle thefts involving the theft of automobiles. As a proportion of the total motor vehicle thefts, trucks including mini-vans and sport utility vehicles (SUVs) have grown in prevalence since the

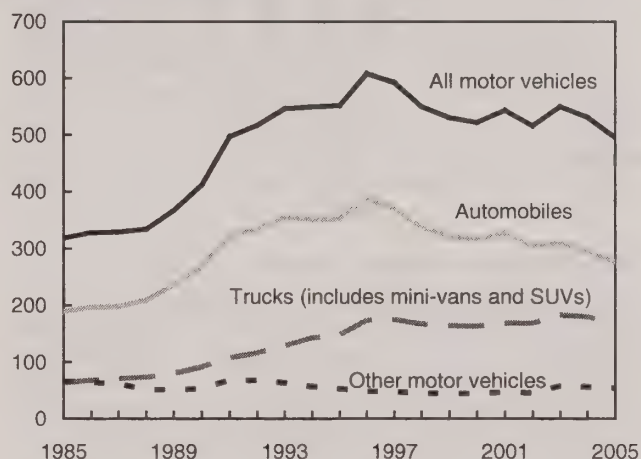
early 1990s and in 2005, they comprised one-third (33%) of all vehicle thefts. This compares to 22% of all motor vehicle thefts in the early 1990s. Motorcycles accounted for 3% in 2005 and all other motor vehicles, such as construction equipment, for 7%.

Decreases were seen in rates for all categories of motor vehicle theft, including trucks (-8%) and cars (-7%) (Figure 11). In comparison to a decade ago, the rate of car thefts was 21% lower in 2005, while the rate of truck thefts was 12% higher. These divergent trends can be largely explained by the growth in the number of vans and SUVs in Canada.

Figure 11

Motor vehicle theft rate dropped in 2005

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Nearly all provinces reported decreases in rates, with the exception of Alberta where the motor vehicle theft rate remained virtually unchanged. Manitoba had the highest motor vehicle theft rate, with a rate more than double the national rate and 47% higher than the next highest rate, recorded by British Columbia. The lowest rates were in Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island (Figure 12).

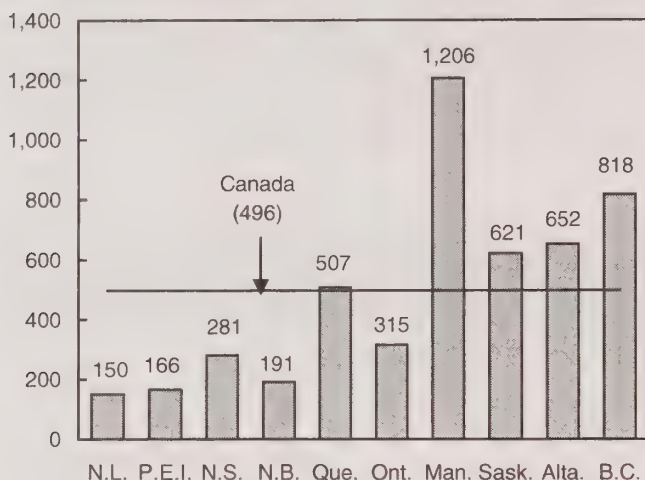
Rates of motor vehicle thefts were either down or stable in nearly all CMAs. The largest drops were in Sudbury (-34%), Sherbrooke (-26%) and Windsor (-26%). The two exceptions were Hamilton and Trois-Rivières where rates all increased.

Even with a 12% drop, rates continued to be highest in Winnipeg, followed by Abbotsford. The lowest rate was recorded by Saint John.

Figure 12

Manitoba had highest rate of vehicle theft in 2005

Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Other Criminal Code Incidents

In addition to violent and property offences, a group of criminal offences are classified as "other *Criminal Code*" offences. Of the 994,000 incidents in this category, mischief (36%), counterfeiting (17%), and disturbing the peace (12%) were the most prevalent (Figure 13). Some other offences in this grouping include administration of justice offences, offensive weapons violations, and arson.

After steadily increasing since 2000, the rate of "other *Criminal Code*" offences decreased 5% in 2005. While declines were seen in almost every offence, the most notable drop was found in counterfeiting which fell by 20%. Previous increases in counterfeiting contributed to the upward trend.

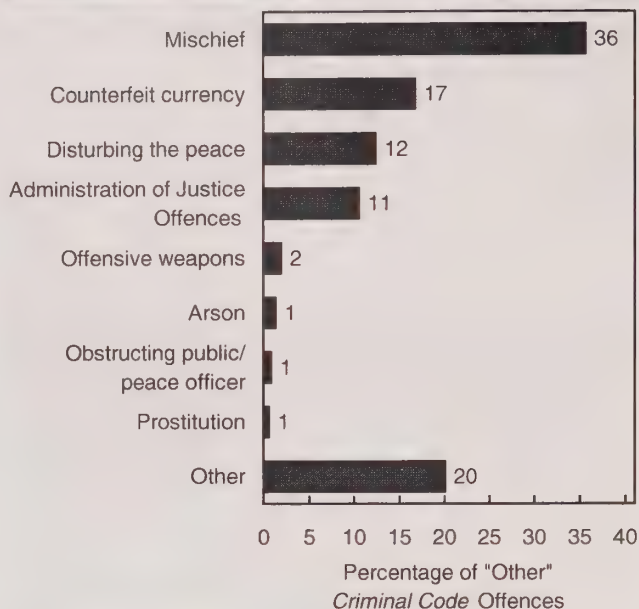
Counterfeiting down for first time in 5 years

The *Criminal Code* contains a number of provisions dealing with counterfeiting, including counterfeiting currency (bank notes), forging credit cards or debit cards, and producing false pieces of identification, such as passports. The penalties range in severity with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment for counterfeiting currency and forging a passport and 10 years for fraudulent credit cards.

According to UCR data from police services, counterfeiting of currency has grown as a proportion of other *Criminal Code* offences from 5% in 2000 to 17% in 2005. However, the counterfeiting rate decreased in 2005 (-20%) for the first time in five years.

Figure 13

Over one-third of "other" Criminal Code offences are mischief violations¹, 2005



1. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

All provinces had a decrease in counterfeiting offences in 2005. After reporting the largest increase in 2004, Saskatchewan and Alberta reported the largest drop, down 59% and 57% respectively. Other large declines were found in New Brunswick (-48%) and Prince Edward Island (-42%). The three most populous provinces, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, had the highest rates of counterfeiting offences.

Another source of information on trends in counterfeiting comes from the RCMP Bureau for Counterfeit and Document Examinations (2006). The RCMP identifies counterfeit currency into two groups. Passed counterfeit currency refers to bank notes (bills) that are successfully passed into the financial system without detection. Seized notes are those that are intercepted by law enforcement prior to any introduction into the financial system.

According to the RCMP, the actual number of counterfeit bills in 2004 was 12 times higher than the number recorded in 1995 (648,323 bills versus 55,951). Similar to data from the UCR, the upward trend ended in 2005 with a 35% drop in the number of counterfeit bills. A total of 422,447 bills were passed or seized, resulting in a loss of \$9.4 million.³

3. For 2005, seized notes include only concluded files.

Reasons for the prevalence of counterfeiting currency have been attributed to the advent of sophisticated and easily obtainable computer devices and software for the production of counterfeit notes. In addition, the RCMP has indicated that sophisticated counterfeiting rings (organized crime) are increasingly involved in the production and distribution of false bank notes.

Addressing the problem of counterfeiting has been tackled by a number of participants: from merchants and retailers in the detection of counterfeit bills; to law enforcement in the prevention and reaction to counterfeiting operations; to the Bank of Canada in making the successful replication of bills more difficult and educating retailers about the changes.

In the latter case, the Bank of Canada, at varying points in time, has issued paper currency with enhanced security features. These recent features have been linked to the reduction in the successful duplication of bank note denominations. For example, the introduction of the new \$20 bill in 2004 may explain a 54% drop in passed \$20 counterfeit bills between 2004 and 2005. In 2005, \$20 and \$10 bills were the most common counterfeit notes (41% each). In mid-2005, a new security enhanced \$10 bill was introduced, while the release of a new \$5 bill is scheduled for the fall of 2006.

Using data from the RCMP Bureau for Counterfeit and Document Examinations, it is evident that provincial rates per 100,000 population vary, with Ontario having the highest rate of passed counterfeit bills, followed by British Columbia and Quebec. The lowest provincial counterfeiting rate was recorded by Prince Edward Island. These regional patterns are similar to findings from the UCR.

Administration of justice offences down

Police reported nearly 105,000 administration of justice offences in 2005. These include such offences as judicial interim release violations (also referred to as bail violations), failure to appear in court, failure to comply with a condition of undertaking or recognizance, a summons or an appearance notice and escaping custody. In addition, a certain proportion of administration of justice offences do not come to the attention of police but is raised and dealt with in the courts or correctional services.

In 2005, the rate of administration of justice offences decreased (-6%) for the first time since 2000. These offences remained relatively stable through the 1990s, but began to increase in 2000. The volume of these offences impacts the entire justice system by interrupting existing prosecution and court processes, increasing remand rates and adding to backlogs in the court system.

Offensive weapons violations increase

The rate of offensive weapons violations increased 5% in 2005. There are variations in trends, however, depending on the type of offensive weapons violations. Illegal possession of a weapon, which includes having an unregistered firearm or failing to possess a license to possess a firearm, accounted for just under two-thirds (65%) of all weapon-related offences. The

rate for this offence has steadily increased since the gradual implementation of the *Firearms Act*⁴ in 1998, including a 10% increase in 2005.

A further 10% of weapons-related offences fell into the illegal firearms usage category (e.g. using a firearm in the commission of an offence or pointing a firearm). This category dropped by 7% in 2005, while "other" weapons offences (e.g. careless use, illegal destruction of a firearm, tampering with serial numbers) fell by 2%. Very few incidents of weapons importation, exportation and trafficking were reported by police, accounting for only about 1% of all weapons-related offences.

Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

In 2005, there were approximately 119,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents, a slight decrease over 2004 (-2%). The most common traffic offence was impaired driving (64%), followed by failure to stop and/or remain (23%), and dangerous driving and driving while prohibited (13%).

Rates of impaired driving continue to decrease

The rate of impaired driving dropped 7% in 2005. With the exception of a slight increase in 2001, the rate has been decreasing since peaking in 1981. This downward trend may be explained by changing attitudes, introduction of legislation, and shifts in enforcement practices.

Of the 76,000 impaired driving incidents recorded in 2005, over nine in ten were classified by police as operating a vehicle (motor vehicle, boat or aircraft) while impaired or with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) over 80 mg. These incidents include instances of police issuing road-side suspensions, rather than laying a formal charge, to drivers found to have a blood-alcohol reading slightly above the legal limit. The remaining offences were processed as failure to provide a breath or blood sample (4%) and impaired operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm or death (1%).

Half the provinces saw decreases in their rates of impaired driving. Quebec and Saskatchewan (the province with the highest rate of impaired driving) experienced the largest drops (11% each). The rate in Ontario, which decreased 4% in 2005, was the lowest among the provinces. New Brunswick and Manitoba were the only provinces to record increases, with growths of 3% each.

Drug incidents drop

The rate of drug offences decreased for the second time in the last three years, falling 6% in 2005. This drop was fuelled by a 12% decline in cannabis offences, including declines in cannabis possession (-11%), trafficking and importation (-14%), and cultivation (-17%). No change occurred in the rate of heroin

4. The *Firearms Act*, which stemmed from Bill C-68 adopted by Parliament in 1995, began its gradual introduction in 1998. The legislation created new offences for gun smuggling and trafficking, as well as prohibiting a number of different types of handguns, and introduced new mandatory penalties for those who use firearms during the commission of a crime.

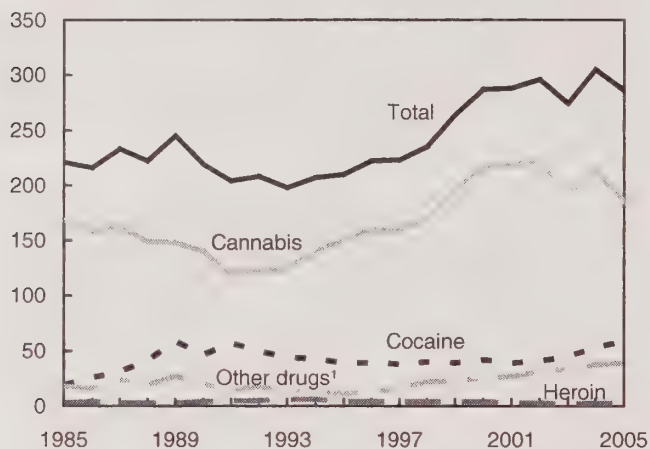
offences, while increases were seen for cocaine offences (+11%) and other drug offences, such as those related to LSD, ecstasy, amphetamines (e.g., 'crystal meth'), barbiturates, and anabolic steroids (+4%).

Although cannabis offences continue to account for the majority of drug offences, they represent a smaller proportion of drug offences compared to five years earlier. In 2005, cannabis offences represented nearly two-thirds (65%) of all drug-related incidents, down from 75% of the total in 2000. While the representation of heroin has remained virtually unchanged at 1%, cocaine offences have grown from 15% to 21% of the total, while other drugs have also increased from 9% to 14% (Figure 14).

Figure 14

Rate of cannabis offences decreased in 2005

Rate per 100,000 population



1. The *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) repealed and replaced the *Narcotic Control Act* (NCA) and parts of the *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA) in May 1997. This affected the "other drug" offence category.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Explanations for the increased rates of other drugs (since 2000) may reside in the growing popularity of certain drugs, such as ecstasy and crystal methamphetamines. According to some researchers, there has been a recent proliferation of methamphetamines (McGhee, 2006). This drug is manufactured in clandestine laboratories using precursor ingredients commonly found in local drug and hardware stores (Health Canada, 2005). Among users, the properties of this stimulant drug, which is chemically related to amphetamine, produces a prolonged sense of euphoria and can lead to episodes of violent behaviour, paranoia and anxiety (Health Canada, 2005).

In August 2005, the drug methamphetamine was moved from a Schedule III to Schedule I drug in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA), thereby increasing the maximum penalties. Offences relating to the production and distribution of methamphetamines rose from a prison term of 10 years to life. In addition to increasing *Criminal Code* sanctions, *Precursor Control Regulations*, overseen by Health Canada, attempt to regulate the sale of the precursor ingredients of methamphetamines.

Given that drug offences can be influenced by changes in local enforcement policies and practices, there can be considerable variation in trends and rates of drug offences between provinces. Decreases in drug crimes were seen in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador, where overall rates increased 3% (Table 6). The largest declines in provincial drug rates were observed in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (-33% each).

Drug offences reported by police were highest in British Columbia, with a rate of 607 incidents per 100,000 population, almost double the next highest rate recorded by Saskatchewan (310). British Columbia has recorded the highest drug rate since the early 1980s. The lowest rates were recorded by Prince Edward Island (135), Manitoba (163), and Newfoundland and Labrador (164).

Youth Crime

When youths aged 12 to 17 come into contact with police, they can be formally charged or processed through other means. In 2005, police charged over 73,000 youths with *Criminal Code* offences. A greater number of youths (96,000) were cleared by means other than laying a formal charge (Table 7). In fact, the number of youths dealt with in this way is likely even higher, given that not all police services maintain complete records for cases where extrajudicial (non-court) measures are applied. These would only include less serious forms of youth crime, since extrajudicial measures (e.g., taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions programs) are only encouraged by the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) for non-violent and minor offences.

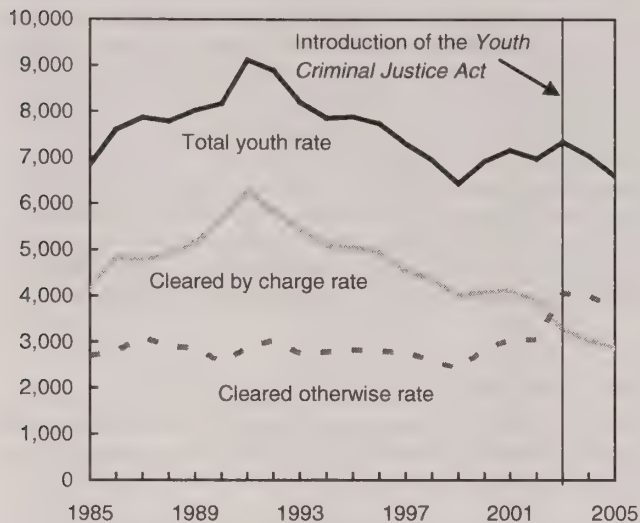
The rate of youths charged dropped 6%, while the rate of youths cleared otherwise fell 7% in 2005. Taken together, youth crime decreased 6%, representing the second consecutive decrease (Figure 15). The youth crime rate decreased throughout the 1990s, reaching a low in 1999, and generally increased from 1999 to 2003. The 2005 youth crime rate was the lowest since 1999.

Since the introduction of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in 2003, the proportion of apprehended youths who are formally charged by police has dropped from 56% in 2002 (pre-YCJA) to 43% in 2005 (post-YCJA).

Figure 15

Youth crime rate decreased in 2005

Rate per 100,000 youths



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

After recording the largest decrease in youth crime in 2004, Prince Edward Island, a small province which is prone to large yearly fluctuations, had the largest rate increase in 2005, up 31% (Table 8). Smaller increases were reported by New Brunswick (+5%) and Nova Scotia (+3%). The remaining seven provinces recorded decreases, ranging from a decline of 2% in Saskatchewan to a drop of 14% in Manitoba.

Saskatchewan once again had the highest youth crime rate (18,563) among the provinces, nearly double the second highest rate recorded by Manitoba (9,758). The lowest rate continued to be recorded by Quebec (3,798). Consistent with patterns for overall crime rates, youth crime rates tend to be much higher in the territories.

Youth violent crime drops

When both youths charged and youths cleared otherwise are taken into account, violent crime represented 22% of youth crime in 2005. Violent youth crime fell 2% in 2005. Youths charged with a violent offence were stable in 2005, while youths cleared by means other than a charge declined 5%.

The youth crime rate increased for the most serious violent offences: homicide (+47%), attempted murder (+11%), aggravated assault (+6%) and robbery (+9%). Decreases were seen in common assaults and sexual assaults.

Youth property crime continues to fall

In 2005, property-related offences accounted for 39% of all youth crime. Of these, the majority (57%) were thefts of \$5,000 or less. The next most common property crimes among youths were break-ins (21%) and possession of stolen goods (11%).

For the second straight year, the property crime rate decreased, falling by 12%. Both youths charged and youths cleared otherwise categories dropped 12%. The youth crime rate for break-ins decreased 19%, while the youth vehicle theft rate dropped 21%.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Coverage of the UCR Survey in 2005 was at 99.9% of the caseload of all police services in Canada.

In this report, the "crime rate" excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time as a result of changes in police procedures that allow for some traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident). Other federal statutes such as drug offences are also excluded from the "crime rate" in this report.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

1. Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal Code*). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are

recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g. for a bank robbery, counting everyone present in the bank would result in an over-counting of robbery incidents). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the most serious offence) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police services switch over from the aggregate to the incident-based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

In 2005, 127 police services in 9 provinces supplied data for the complete year to the UCR2 survey. These data represent 62% of the national volume of reported actual (substantiated) *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 2005 database were distributed as follows: 41.2% from Ontario, 28.9% from Quebec, 10.6% from Alberta, 6.2% from British Columbia, 4.9% from Manitoba, 4.4% from Saskatchewan, 2.2% from Nova Scotia, 0.8% from Newfoundland and Labrador, and 0.6% from New Brunswick. Other than Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This database currently includes 64 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey consistently since 1998. These respondents accounted for 46% of the national volume of crime in 2005. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least five years of data to the UCR2 survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database. The incidents contained in the 2005 Trend database were distributed as follows: 39.6% from Quebec, 33.8% from Ontario, 14.0% from Alberta, 6.0% from British Columbia, 5.9% from Saskatchewan and 0.7% from New Brunswick.

Data Limitations

For the RCMP during 2004/2005, due to the implementation of new records management systems and moving from the Aggregate UCR Survey to the UCR2 Survey, certain offences were estimated for selected detachments from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Using time-series estimation, the offences most affected were generally less serious, high volume ones: Theft Under \$5000, Bail Violations, Disturbing the Peace, Mischief Under \$5000 and "other" Criminal Code offences. However, counts of Minor Assault were estimated in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, and Breaking and Entering in Nunavut. Five years of data were used to create time series models of each offence at the provincial/territorial level for the RCMP. Offences were adjusted if the detachment experienced a significant decrease in counts and if the detachment was large enough to impact the overall provincial/territorial RCMP incident count for that offence.

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Table 1

Federal Statute Incidents Reported to Police, by Most Serious Offence, Canada, 2001 to 2005

	2001		2002		2003		2004 ^r		2005		Percent change in rate ^a 2004-2005	Percent change in rate ^a 1995-2005
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹		
Population	31,021,251		31,372,587		31,669,150		31,974,363		32,270,507			
Homicide ²	553	1.8	582	1.9	549	1.7	624	2.0	658	2.0	4	2
Attempted murder	725	2.3	678	2.2	707	2.2	671	2.1	772	2.4	14	-20
Assault - Total	236,957	764	235,710	751	236,802	748	234,259	733	234,729	727	-1	-2
Level 1	191,147	616	189,185	603	188,667	596	184,883	578	182,049	564	-2	-8
Level 2 - Weapon	43,094	139	43,793	140	45,222	143	46,643	146	49,653	154	5	25
Level 3 - Aggravated	2,716	9	2,732	9	2,913	9	2,733	9	3,027	9	10	4
Other assaults	12,260	40	12,454	40	12,534	40	12,811	40	12,818	40	-1	-14
Sexual assault - Total	24,044	78	24,499	78	23,514	74	23,036	72	23,303	72	0	-25
Level 1	23,563	76	23,973	76	22,983	73	22,449	70	22,736	70	0	-24
Level 2 - Weapon	320	1	373	1	359	1	397	1	396	1	-1	-39
Level 3 - Aggravated	161	1	153	0	172	1	190	1	171	1	-11	-47
Other sexual offences	2,689	9	2,756	9	2,565	8	2,614	8	2,741	8	4	-29
Abduction	674	2	605	2	559	2	637	2	584	2	-9	-55
Robbery - Total	27,284	88	26,662	85	28,437	90	27,495	86	28,669	89	3	-15
Firearms	3,818	12	3,483	11	3,856	12	3,645	11	3,505	11	-5	-53
Other Weapons	10,280	33	10,104	32	10,057	32	8,362	26	8,558	27	1	-24
No Weapons	13,186	43	13,075	42	14,524	46	15,488	48	16,606	51	6	12
Violent crime - Total	305,186	984	303,946	969	305,667	965	302,147	945	304,274	943	0	-7
Breaking & entering - Total	279,461	901	275,573	878	284,925	900	275,869	863	259,521	804	-7	-40
Residential	166,500	537	163,156	520	161,494	510	153,223	479	148,270	459	-4	-43
Business	80,264	259	81,162	259	86,842	274	86,226	270	79,722	247	-8	-33
Other	32,697	105	31,255	100	36,589	116	36,420	114	31,529	98	-14	-39
Motor vehicle theft	168,595	543	161,912	516	174,208	550	169,977	532	160,100	496	-7	-10
Theft over \$5,000	20,845	67	19,816	63	19,416	61	16,968	53	17,491	54	2	-62
Theft \$5,000 and under	659,589	2,126	667,312	2,127	700,605	2,212	673,999	2,108	640,714	1,985	-6	-29
Possession of stolen goods	26,960	87	30,056	96	33,151	105	35,743	112	33,848	105	-6	-2
Fraud	86,486	279	91,812	293	92,924	293	97,443	305	94,468	293	-4	-18
Property crime - Total	1,241,936	4,004	1,246,481	3,973	1,305,229	4,121	1,269,999	3,972	1,206,142	3,738	-6	-29
Mischief	333,136	1,074	333,334	1,063	357,568	1,129	353,518	1,106	353,955	1,097	-1	-15
Counterfeiting currency ³	38,674	125	79,970	255	139,267	440	201,108	629	163,323	506	-20	623
Bail violations	90,545	292	96,206	307	101,095	319	106,664	334	100,334	311	-7	36
Disturbing the peace	89,971	290	89,354	285	102,909	325	117,389	367	122,803	381	4	117
Offensive weapons	15,876	51	15,930	51	17,621	56	18,202	57	19,337	60	5	0
Prostitution	5,087	16	5,770	18	5,688	18	6,452	20	5,793	18	-11	-25
Arson	14,484	47	13,131	42	13,875	44	13,150	41	13,315	41	0	-8
Other	239,916	773	233,322	744	230,253	727	222,342	695	215,283	667	-4	-17
Other Criminal Code offences - Total	827,689	2,668	867,017	2,764	968,276	3,057	1,038,825	3,249	994,143	3,081	-5	14
Criminal Code without traffic - Total (crime rate)	2,374,811	7,655	2,417,444	7,706	2,579,172	8,144	2,610,971	8,166	2,504,559	7,761	-5	-14
Impaired driving ⁴	82,718	267	80,045	255	77,645	245	80,339	251	75,613	234	-7	-33
Fail to stop/remain	22,538	73	22,040	70	23,336	74	24,022	75	27,217	84	12	-54
Other - Criminal Code Traffic ⁵	14,978	48	15,486	49	16,138	51	16,276	51	15,908	49	-3	-17
Criminal Code Traffic - Total	120,234	388	117,571	375	117,119	370	120,637	377	118,738	368	-2	-38
Criminal Code - Total (incl. traffic)	2,495,045	8,043	2,535,015	8,080	2,696,291	8,514	2,731,608	8,543	2,623,297	8,129	-5	-15
Drugs	89,395	288	92,781	296	86,791	274	97,630	305	92,255	286	-6	36
Cannabis	67,921	219	69,687	222	61,087	193	67,895	212	59,973	186	-12	24
Cocaine	12,145	39	12,737	41	14,225	45	16,974	53	18,951	59	11	51
Heroin	951	3	786	3	657	2	799	2	803	2	0	-38
Other drugs	8,378	27	9,571	31	10,822	34	11,962	37	12,528	39	4	253
Other federal statutes	38,013	123	40,122	128	36,264	115	34,017	106	31,501	98	-8	-21
Total federal statutes (incl. C.c.)	2,622,453	8,454	2,667,918	8,504	2,819,346	8,902	2,863,255	8,955	2,747,053	8,513	-5	-14

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^r Revised figures.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003 and 2004, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years. Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Due to an improved data collection methodology for counterfeiting introduced in 2005, numbers for certain police services, primarily in Ontario, were revised for 2004. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

4. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample. In 2001, the RCMP began reporting incidents in which a roadside suspension was issued, rather than a charge laid, to the CCJS. In 2002, most other police services began reporting this way as well. Previous to 2004, Vancouver Police only reported incidents of impaired driving when a charge had been laid. As of 2004, their data also include incidents where the driver was tested to be over .08 and received a road-side suspension. This resulted in 1,900 more impaired driving incidents being reported in 2004 than 2003.

5. Includes dangerous operation offences and driving a motor vehicle while prohibited.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2

Rates of Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1962 - 2005¹

	Total Criminal Code offences ²		Violent crime		Property crime		Other Criminal Code offences ³	
	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*
1962	2,771	...	221	...	1,891	...	659	...
1963	3,022	9.0	249	13.0	2,047	8.2	726	10.1
1964	3,245	7.4	284	13.8	2,146	4.9	815	12.3
1965	3,199	-1.4	299	5.4	2,091	-2.6	809	-0.7
1966	3,511	9.8	347	15.9	2,258	8.0	907	12.0
1967	3,850	9.6	381	9.9	2,484	10.0	985	8.7
1968	4,336	12.6	423	11.0	2,826	13.8	1,087	10.3
1969	4,737	9.3	453	7.1	3,120	10.4	1,164	7.1
1970	5,212	10.0	481	6.2	3,515	12.6	1,217	4.6
1971	5,311	1.9	492	2.4	3,649	3.8	1,170	-3.9
1972	5,355	0.8	497	1.0	3,634	-0.4	1,224	4.6
1973	5,773	7.8	524	5.3	3,704	1.9	1,546	26.3
1974	6,388	10.6	553	5.6	4,151	12.1	1,684	8.9
1975	6,852	7.3	585	5.9	4,498	8.4	1,769	5.0
1976	6,984	1.9	584	-0.2	4,533	0.8	1,867	5.6
1977	6,971	-0.2	572	-2.0	4,466	-1.5	1,933	3.5
1978	7,154	2.6	580	1.4	4,579	2.5	1,995	3.2
1979	7,666	7.2	610	5.1	4,903	7.1	2,153	7.9
1980	8,343	8.8	636	4.3	5,444	11.0	2,263	5.1
1981	8,736	4.7	654	2.8	5,759	5.8	2,322	2.6
1982	8,773	0.4	671	2.7	5,840	1.4	2,262	-2.6
1983	8,470	-3.5	679	1.2	5,608	-4.0	2,182	-3.5
1984	8,387	-1.0	701	3.1	5,501	-1.9	2,185	0.1
1985	8,413	0.3	735	4.8	5,451	-0.9	2,227	1.9
1986	8,727	3.7	785	6.9	5,550	1.8	2,392	7.4
1987	8,957	2.6	829	5.7	5,553	0.1	2,575	7.6
1988	8,919	-0.4	868	4.7	5,439	-2.0	2,613	1.5
1989	8,892	-0.3	911	5.0	5,289	-2.7	2,692	3.0
1990	9,485	6.7	973	6.8	5,612	6.1	2,900	7.8
1991	10,342	9.0	1,059	8.9	6,160	9.8	3,122	7.7
1992	10,040	-2.9	1,084	2.3	5,904	-4.2	3,052	-2.3
1993	9,538	-5.0	1,082	-0.2	5,575	-5.6	2,881	-5.6
1994	9,125	-4.3	1,047	-3.2	5,257	-5.7	2,821	-2.1
1995	9,008	-1.3	1,009	-3.7	5,292	0.7	2,707	-4.0
1996	8,932	-0.8	1,002	-0.7	5,274	-0.3	2,656	-1.9
1997	8,475	-5.1	993	-0.9	4,880	-7.5	2,603	-2.0
1998	8,161	-3.7	982	-1.1	4,569	-6.4	2,610	0.3
1999	7,752	-5.0	958	-2.4	4,276	-6.4	2,518	-3.5
2000	7,666	-1.1	984	2.7	4,081	-4.6	2,601	3.3
2001	7,655	-0.1	984	-0.1	4,004	-1.9	2,668	2.6
2002	7,706	0.7	969	-1.5	3,973	-0.8	2,764	3.6
2003	8,144	5.7	965	-0.4	4,121	3.7	3,057	10.6
2004 ^r	8,166	0.3	945	-2.1	3,972	-3.6	3,249	6.3
2005	7,761	-5.0	943	-0.2	3,738	-5.9	3,081	-5.2

* In comparison to the previous year's rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not applicable or appropriate.

^r Revised figures

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: intercensal estimates for 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1971 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003 and 2004, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

2. Excluding traffic offences.

3. Due to an improved data collection methodology for counterfeiting introduced in 2005, numbers for certain police services, primarily in Ontario, were revised for 2004. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3

Selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2005¹

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. ²	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ³	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
Population, 2005	515,961	138,113	937,889	752,006	7,598,146	12,541,410	1,177,556	994,126	3,256,816	4,254,522	30,988	42,982	29,992	32,270,507
Homicide														
number	9	0	20	9	100	218	49	43	109	98	1	0	2	658
rate	1.7	0.0	2.1	1.2	1.3	1.7	4.2	4.3	3.3	2.3	3.2	0.0	6.7	2.0
% change in rate*	351.2	...	42.8	28.6	-10.5	15.3	-2.6	10.3	24.7	-14.3	-85.8	-100.0	-50.5	4.5
Assault (levels 1,2,3)														
number	3,759	896	8,770	5,156	39,866	69,991	14,755	16,163	28,567	41,603	857	2,554	1,792	234,729
rate	729	649	935	686	525	558	1,253	1,626	877	978	2,766	5,942	5,975	727
% change in rate*	-5.0	-5.5	-5.0	-9.7	1.4	-0.9	0.1	-2.3	-0.1	1.2	-6.7	-3.4	-10.3	-0.7
Sexual assault (levels 1,2,3)														
number	436	89	775	511	4,935	7,801	1,318	1,307	2,246	3,415	56	175	239	23,303
rate	85	64	83	68	65	62	112	131	69	80	181	407	797	72
% change in rate*	-7.2	-3.4	-5.8	-14.0	15.1	-0.1	-11.2	1.1	-10.0	1.6	-7.1	-5.2	-16.1	0.2
Robbery														
number	149	17	707	246	6,754	9,918	2,007	1,243	2,972	4,619	16	15	6	28,669
rate	29	12	75	33	89	79	170	125	91	109	52	35	20	89
% change in rate*	17.6	-34.7	-5.3	0.0	-1.4	6.4	14.1	4.2	4.4	0.5	-30.7	-21.3	196.8	3.3
Violent crime - Total														
number	4,482	1,052	10,675	6,272	56,175	93,788	18,837	19,717	35,693	51,671	957	2,843	2,112	304,274
rate	869	762	1,138	834	739	748	1,600	1,983	1,096	1,214	3,088	6,614	7,042	943
% change in rate*	-5.4	-5.3	-5.4	-10.9	2.0	0.3	-0.1	-1.6	-0.4	1.3	-8.5	-3.7	-11.1	-0.2
Breaking & entering														
number	4,198	845	7,298	4,870	65,167	68,349	13,218	14,596	29,037	49,611	497	982	853	259,521
rate	814	612	778	648	858	545	1,122	1,468	892	1,166	1,604	2,285	2,844	804
% change in rate*	-6.0	3.2	-6.8	-9.3	-0.6	-9.1	-6.7	-14.0	-8.6	-7.4	-10.8	-8.1	-20.6	-6.8
Motor vehicle theft														
number	775	229	2,632	1,440	38,546	39,483	14,200	6,177	21,231	34,800	148	275	164	160,100
rate	150	166	281	191	507	315	1,206	621	652	818	478	640	547	496
% change in rate*	-21.0	-10.4	-16.2	-21.0	-2.1	-7.0	-11.5	-17.0	0.7	-9.0	-9.6	-24.1	-31.8	-6.7
Other theft														
number	6,806	3,256	19,228	11,762	113,397	196,871	27,951	28,079	89,144	158,701	1,112	1,335	563	658,205
rate	1,319	2,357	2,050	1,564	1,492	1,570	2,374	2,824	2,737	3,730	3,588	3,106	1,877	2,040
% change in rate*	-4.3	-1.2	-5.8	-4.6	-3.1	-4.8	-16.5	-7.9	-2.6	-7.7	-0.2	-12.6	-17.5	-5.6
Property crime - Total														
number	13,078	4,790	34,005	20,476	238,033	352,127	58,815	54,514	158,737	265,246	1,868	2,787	1,666	1,206,142
rate	2,535	3,468	3,626	2,723	3,133	2,808	4,995	5,484	4,874	6,234	6,028	6,484	5,555	3,738
% change in rate*	-8.0	-1.4	-7.1	-9.2	-2.3	-5.4	-12.4	-12.0	-3.7	-7.5	-7.2	-12.8	-21.1	-5.9
Counterfeiting currency ⁴														
number	137	89	1,096	560	59,019	73,987	657	1,123	6,456	20,124	20	49	6	163,323
rate	27	64	117	74	777	590	56	113	198	473	65	114	20	506
% change in rate*	-24.9	-41.9	-25.0	-47.5	-21.4	-10.4	-4.8	-58.8	-57.4	-15.7	17.1	112.4	-25.8	-19.5
Mischief														
number	6,572	2,257	14,431	9,163	44,768	87,808	32,268	30,145	54,680	61,727	1,758	5,725	2,653	353,955
rate	1,274	1,634	1,539	1,218	589	700	2,740	3,032	1,679	1,451	5,673	13,320	8,846	1,097
% change in rate*	2.6	7.5	5.7	-3.8	-7.5	-5.3	5.2	9.7	4.5	-2.1	3.2	-1.5	-8.3	-0.8
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences - Total														
number	13,856	5,187	33,589	24,054	164,119	278,949	60,630	68,123	132,014	191,354	4,116	12,098	6,054	994,143
rate	2,685	3,756	3,581	3,199	2,160	2,224	5,149	6,853	4,053	4,498	13,283	28,147	20,185	3,081
% change in rate*	0.3	-4.3	-2.9	-5.1	-9.9	-5.0	-5.6	-1.4	-6.6	-2.3	-3.8	1.1	-7.8	-5.2
<i>Criminal Code</i> - Total - without traffic offences														
number	31,416	11,029	78,269	50,802	458,327	724,864	138,282	142,354	326,444	508,271	6,941	17,728	9,832	2,504,559
rate	6,089	7,985	8,345	6,756	6,032	5,780	11,743	14,320	10,023	11,947	22,399	41,245	32,782	7,761
% change in rate*	-4.1	-3.2	-5.1	-7.5	-4.7	-4.5	-7.9	-5.8	-4.6	-4.8	-5.4	-2.1	-11.1	-5.0

* In comparison to the previous year's rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

2. Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

3. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years. Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

4. Due to an improved data collection methodology for counterfeiting introduced in 2005, numbers for certain police services, primarily in Ontario, were revised for 2004. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4

Crime rates for selected *Criminal Code* incidents, for census metropolitan areas, Canada, 2005¹

	Population ²	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic)		Homicide ³		Robbery		Breaking and entering		Motor vehicle theft	
		Rate	% change in rate*	Number	Rate	Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*
CMAs with population of 500,000 and over											
Vancouver ⁴	2,156,509	11,226	-7.1	62	2.9	149	-1.3	1,192	-12.0	990	-13.4
Winnipeg ⁵	698,791	11,153	-8.4	26	3.7	263	14.7	1,070	-4.9	1,712	-11.5
Edmonton	1,024,946	10,529	-7.5	44	4.3	142	1.5	1,025	-8.6	1,059	-4.8
Montréal	3,675,155	7,328	-4.5	48	1.3	147	-1.4	892	1.4	649	0.2
Calgary	1,061,524	7,010	-3.2	26	2.4	103	10.8	777	-5.7	440	-4.6
Ottawa ⁶	876,798	5,842	1.1	11	1.3	88	4.5	630	9.0	317	-0.9
Hamilton	697,239	5,625	-2.4	11	1.6	102	15.8	681	0.1	560	3.7
Toronto ⁷	5,306,911	5,355	-4.0	104	2.0	109	6.8	388	-13.3	306	-6.0
Québec	720,787	4,528	-5.6	5	0.7	64	10.0	785	3.4	260	-2.9
CMAs with population between 100,000 and 500,000											
Saskatoon	244,826	13,236	-3.6	9	3.7	248	18.5	1,494	-16.9	550	-6.8
Regina	201,435	13,194	-14.6	8	4.0	197	-7.4	1,740	-17.9	1,078	-20.5
Abbotsford ⁸	162,907	12,886	-1.7	4	2.5	106	11.4	1,219	-11.2	1,514	0.3
Victoria	336,030	9,932	-3.0	2	0.6	60	-21.2	804	-13.5	260	-22.7
Halifax	380,844	9,385	-6.6	10	2.6	155	-4.3	916	-4.8	428	-20.9
Thunder Bay	124,262	8,913	-5.9	3	2.4	100	15.3	872	-3.0	292	-13.4
London	471,033	7,473	2.4	14	3.0	72	4.2	727	-0.3	547	-10.1
Saint John	145,363	6,713	-4.9	0	0.0	44	-29.0	522	-23.1	137	1.4
Kingston	154,389	6,672	-5.4	5	3.2	39	-20.1	639	-1.4	189	-19.2
Windsor	333,163	6,594	-13.4	5	1.5	66	-6.1	698	-24.3	339	-25.7
St. John's	181,527	6,492	-3.9	2	1.1	62	22.9	1,087	-5.2	267	-17.4
St. Catharines–Niagara	434,347	6,006	-3.2	14	3.2	67	7.7	729	-0.9	339	-4.1
Greater Sudbury	160,912	5,769	-5.3	2	1.2	53	26.9	804	-5.6	323	-33.9
Gatineau ⁹	284,963	5,622	-5.1	3	1.1	68	16.6	957	2.8	278	-10.8
Kitchener	485,248	5,477	-7.5	7	1.4	63	-21.1	726	-2.9	348	-24.5
Sherbrooke	148,225	5,042	-17.5	0	0.0	42	-13.3	789	-7.8	387	-26.3
Trois-Rivières	145,567	4,823	-1.4	0	0.0	41	-9.7	686	-1.8	451	23.3
Saguenay	147,071	3,723	-9.3	1	0.7	16	-14.3	456	-17.5	292	-13.7

* In comparison to the previous year's rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force. The CMA populations have been adjusted according to police service boundaries. Also, note that the Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

3. Due to small numbers and populations in some CMAs, homicide rates often have large year-to-year fluctuations. As such, % changes are not presented here.

4. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years, which are included in the Vancouver CMA. Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

5. Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

6. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

7. Crime counts for breaking and entering, weapon offences, and bail violations for Toronto Police in 2005 are estimates due to new methods in data processing arising from the implementation of a new records management system. Therefore, please use caution comparing these data with prior years. An improved data collection methodology for counterfeiting introduced in 2005 resulted in approximately 50,000 counterfeiting incidents being added to Toronto's 2004 data. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

8. Crime data from February to April 2005 for Abbotsford Police are estimates due to the implementation of a new records management system. Therefore please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

9. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

ERRATA (before the corrections)

Title: Crime statistics in Canada, 2005

Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol. 26, no. 4

Page 18, Table 4 (Calgary)

Before the corrections:

Table 4

Crime rates for selected *Criminal Code* incidents, for census metropolitan areas, Canada, 2005¹

	Population ²	Total Criminal Code offences (excluding traffic)		Homicide ³		Robbery		Breaking and entering		Motor vehicle theft	
		Rate	% change in rate*	Number	Rate	Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*
CMAs with population of 500,000 and over											
Vancouver ⁴	2,156,509	11,226	-7.1	62	2.9	149	-1.3	1,192	-12.0	990	-13.4
Winnipeg ⁵	698,791	11,153	-8.4	26	3.7	263	14.7	1,070	-4.9	1,712	-11.5
Edmonton	1,024,946	10,529	-7.5	44	4.3	142	1.5	1,025	-8.6	1,059	-4.8
Montréal	3,675,155	7,328	-4.5	48	1.3	147	-1.4	892	1.4	649	0.2
Calgary	1,061,524	7,010	-3.2	26	2.4	103	10.8	777	-5.7	440	-4.6
Ottawa ⁶	876,798	5,842	1.1	11	1.3	88	4.5	630	9.0	317	-0.9
Hamilton	697,239	5,625	-2.4	11	1.6	102	15.8	681	0.1	560	3.7
Toronto ⁷	5,306,911	5,355	-4.0	104	2.0	109	6.8	388	-13.3	306	-6.0
Québec	720,787	4,528	-5.6	5	0.7	64	10.0	785	3.4	260	-2.9

ERRATA (corrected version)

Title: Crime statistics in Canada, 2005

Catalogue no. 85-002 Vol. 26, no. 4

Page 18, Table 4

(Calgary)

Table 4

Crime rates for selected *Criminal Code* incidents, for census metropolitan areas, Canada, 2005¹

	Population ²	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic)		Homicide ³		Robbery		Breaking and entering		Motor vehicle theft	
		Rate	% change in rate*	Number	Rate	Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*	Rate	% change in rate*
		CMA's with population of 500,000 and over									
Vancouver ⁴	2,156,509	11,226	-7.1	62	2.9	149	-1.3	1,192	-12.0	990	-13.4
Winnipeg ⁵	698,791	11,153	-8.4	26	3.7	263	14.7	1,070	-4.9	1,712	-11.5
Edmonton	1,024,946	10,529	-7.5	44	4.3	142	1.5	1,025	-8.6	1,059	-4.8
Montréal	3,675,155	7,328	-4.5	48	1.3	147	-1.4	892	1.4	649	0.2
Calgary	1,061,524	6,954	-4.0	26	2.4	103	10.7	771	-6.4	435	-5.6
Ottawa ⁶	876,798	5,842	1.1	11	1.3	88	4.5	630	9.0	317	-0.9
Hamilton	697,239	5,625	-2.4	11	1.6	102	15.8	681	0.1	560	3.7
Toronto ⁷	5,306,911	5,355	-4.0	104	2.0	109	6.8	388	-13.3	306	-6.0
Québec	720,787	4,528	-5.6	5	0.7	64	10.0	785	3.4	260	-2.9

Table 5

Crime rates for the 30 largest municipal police services¹, by type of incident, 2005

Police Service	Population ²	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences		Violent crime		Property crime		Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	
		Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*	Rate ³	% change in rate*
Toronto CMA Police Services⁴									
Toronto Police ⁵	2,607,637	7,310	0.6	1,006	6.4	2,977	0.7	3,327	-1.2
Peel Regional Police	1,148,445	3,293	-7.1	462	0.5	1,913	-10.6	918	-3.0
York Regional Police ⁶	922,487	3,259	-16.6	432	-1.0	1,864	-17.1	963	-21.1
Montréal CMA Police Services⁴									
Montréal Police	1,873,813	9,726	-4.8	1,065	-0.4	4,486	0.2	4,175	-10.7
Longueuil Police	389,071	6,209	-6.2	726	-5.5	3,719	-2.4	1,764	-13.7
Laval Police	370,368	5,132	-5.3	680	5.0	3,155	-3.8	1,298	-12.9
Vancouver CMA Police Services⁴									
Vancouver Police	584,701	11,719	-11.1	1,249	-0.4	7,587	-10.5	2,883	-16.6
Surrey (RCMP) Police	393,971	12,650	-8.4	1,386	-3.7	7,391	-8.2	3,872	-10.3
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	204,320	12,334	-11.8	1,041	0.3	7,442	-17.9	3,852	-0.6
Richmond (RCMP) Police	173,429	9,411	-7.5	622	5.8	4,974	-12.7	3,816	-1.8
Other Large Police Services									
Calgary Police	970,797	6,889	-4.1	822	-0.6	4,300	-2.7	1,767	-8.8
Ottawa Police	832,550	5,968	1.0	645	-6.8	3,255	1.7	2,068	2.6
Edmonton Police	718,788	11,711	-9.6	924	0.5	7,435	-0.9	3,352	-26.1
Winnipeg Police ⁷	649,921	11,702	-8.2	1,328	4.9	6,222	-12.4	4,152	-5.1
Durham Regional Police ⁸	575,201	4,916	-11.2	646	0.2	2,324	-8.7	1,945	-17.0
Québec Police	530,618	5,054	-5.3	570	9.9	3,214	-1.1	1,271	-19.2
Hamilton Regional Police	519,878	6,287	-1.4	864	-0.4	3,505	-2.6	1,918	0.3
Waterloo Regional Police	485,248	5,441	-7.8	554	-10.5	3,340	-6.4	1,548	-9.7
Halton Regional Police ⁸	443,402	3,588	-7.3	435	3.0	1,880	-4.0	1,274	-14.6
Niagara Regional Police	434,347	5,988	-3.0	562	3.3	3,396	2.2	2,029	-12.0
London Police	359,447	8,420	4.6	795	5.7	4,559	2.1	3,066	8.3
Gatineau Police	245,629	5,938	-4.7	949	1.0	3,294	-6.9	1,695	-3.4
Windsor Police	221,879	8,393	-14.9	837	-5.1	4,593	-18.9	2,963	-10.9
Halifax Regional Police	213,242	12,274	-5.1	1,790	-3.2	6,837	-8.1	3,647	0.1
Saskatoon Police	203,032	15,123	-1.9	1,775	1.9	7,233	-5.6	6,114	1.9
Regina Police	182,459	13,932	-14.9	1,676	-0.1	7,507	-15.6	4,748	-18.1
St. John's (RNC) Police	181,527	6,492	-3.9	833	0.5	3,850	-7.3	1,809	2.2
Greater Sudbury Police	160,912	5,769	-5.3	740	0.9	3,213	-9.6	1,817	0.5
Sherbrooke Police	148,225	5,042	-17.0	569	4.5	2,721	-15.9	1,751	-23.8
Saguenay Police	147,071	3,723	-9.9	443	-11.9	2,005	-12.4	1,274	-4.8

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Data in this table include all incidents reported within the jurisdiction of each police force, including incidents such as counterfeiting currency which may have been handled by other police services.

2. Police Service population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

4. The police services listed under the Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver CMAs do not represent all the police services in the CMA.

5. Crime counts for breaking and entering, weapon offences, and bail violations for Toronto Police in 2005 are estimates due to new methods in data processes arising from the implementation of a new records management system. An improved data collection methodology for counterfeiting introduced in 2005 resulted in approximately 50,000 counterfeiting incidents being added to Toronto's 2004 data. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

6. In 2005, York Regional Police implemented a new records management system. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

7. Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

8. Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police, and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 6

Drug Offences, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2005¹

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
Population, 2005	515,961	138,113	937,889	752,006	7,598,146	12,541,410	1,177,556	994,126	3,256,816	4,254,522	30,988	42,982	29,992	32,270,507
Cannabis														
number	652	128	1,562	1,310	13,989	17,736	1,121	1,991	4,689	16,237	60	275	223	59,973
rate	126	93	167	174	184	141	95	200	144	382	194	640	744	186
% change in rate*	-5	-41	-25	-37	-13	-7	-37	-17	-10	-11	-34	-3	-12	-12
Heroin														
number	3	1	2	2	95	97	0	3	12	586	1	1	0	803
rate	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	14	3	2	0	2
% change in rate*	50	0	-33	0	5	-26	-100	-50	48	5	0	-0	...	-0
Cocaine														
number	93	30	198	178	2,172	6,101	348	483	2,667	6,515	20	137	9	18,951
rate	18	22	21	24	29	49	30	49	82	153	65	319	30	59
% change in rate*	76	30	-8	-30	-1	24	-28	33	12	6	-59	75	78	11
Other drugs														
number	98	27	252	310	2,923	4,291	453	607	1,042	2,472	15	25	13	12,528
rate	19	20	27	41	38	34	38	61	32	58	48	58	43	39
% change in rate*	14	-33	-1	-13	14	-6	-3	21	14	10	7	-20	7	4
Total														
number	846	186	2,014	1,800	19,179	28,225	1,922	3,084	8,410	25,810	96	438	245	92,255
rate	164	135	215	239	252	225	163	310	258	607	310	1,019	817	286
% change in rate*	3	-33	-21	-33	-8	-2	-30	-6	-2	-5	-38	11	-10	-6

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not applicable or appropriate.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 7

Youths accused of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada¹, 2005

	2004 ^r				2005				% change in rate* 2004-2005
	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ²	Total number	Total rate	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ²	Total number	Total rate	
Homicide	44	0	44	2	65	0	65	3	46.8
Attempted Murder	48	2	50	2	47	9	56	2	11.3
Assault - Total	14,096	16,154	30,250	1,186	14,090	15,327	29,417	1,146	-3.3
Level 1	9,010	14,019	23,029	903	8,874	13,162	22,036	859	-4.9
Level 2-Weapon	4,674	2,101	6,775	266	4,788	2,119	6,907	269	1.3
Level 3-Aggravated	412	34	446	17	428	46	474	18	5.6
Other assaults	1,135	329	1,464	57	1,195	269	1,464	57	-0.6
Sexual assault - Total	1,368	1,027	2,395	94	1,237	975	2,212	86	-8.2
Level 1	1,319	1,019	2,338	92	1,205	966	2,171	85	-7.7
Level 2-Weapon	36	6	42	2	24	9	33	1	-21.9
Level 3-Aggravated	13	2	15	1	8	0	8	0	-47.0
Other sexual offences	127	174	301	12	143	150	293	11	-3.2
Abduction	3	2	5	0	3	8	11	0	118.7
Robbery - Total	3,055	648	3,703	145	3,299	771	4,070	159	9.3
Firearms	226	21	247	10	264	47	311	12	25.2
Other weapons	930	125	1,055	41	955	134	1,089	42	2.6
No weapons	1,899	502	2,401	94	2,080	590	2,670	104	10.5
Violent crime - Total	19,876	18,336	38,212	1,498	20,079	17,509	37,588	1,465	-2.2
Breaking & Entering - Total	9,783	6,883	16,666	653	8,134	5,517	13,651	532	-18.6
Residential	5,573	3,817	9,390	368	4,822	3,225	8,047	314	-14.8
Business	3,400	2,220	5,620	220	2,709	1,773	4,482	175	-20.7
Other	810	846	1,656	65	603	519	1,122	44	-32.6
Motor vehicle theft	4,312	2,155	6,467	253	3,270	1,893	5,163	201	-20.6
Theft over \$5,000	178	173	351	14	214	179	393	15	11.3
Theft \$5,000 and under	9,880	30,831	40,711	1,596	9,571	27,763	37,334	1,455	-8.8
Possession of stolen goods	4,764	2,647	7,411	290	4,515	2,558	7,073	276	-5.1
Fraud	1,218	1,458	2,676	105	1,119	1,298	2,417	94	-10.2
Property crime - Total	30,135	44,147	74,282	2,912	26,823	39,208	66,031	2,573	-11.6
Mischief	5,440	18,456	23,896	937	5,559	18,317	23,876	930	-0.7
Counterfeiting currency ³	208	254	462	18	151	173	324	13	-30.3
Bail violations	11,348	1,002	12,350	484	10,757	1,045	11,802	460	-5.0
Disturbing the peace	692	6,475	7,167	281	591	7,101	7,692	300	6.7
Offensive weapons	1,614	1,827	3,441	135	1,557	1,728	3,285	128	-5.1
Prostitution	33	36	69	3	40	39	79	3	13.8
Arson	487	990	1,477	58	492	956	1,448	56	-2.5
Other	7,753	10,589	18,342	719	7,459	9,878	17,337	676	-6.0
Other Criminal Code offences - Total	27,575	39,629	67,204	2,634	26,606	39,237	65,843	2,566	-2.6
Total - Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	77,586	102,112	179,698	7,044	73,508	95,954	169,462	6,603	-6.3

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^r Revised figures.

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2004 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

2. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youths, this could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures, such as a police warning or diversion to a community program. Processing by other means could refer to the commitment to a mental hospital and death of accused.

3. Due to an improved data collection methodology for counterfeiting introduced in 2005, numbers for certain police services, primarily in Ontario, were revised for 2004. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 8

Youths accused¹ of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2005²

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man. ³	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
Population (aged 12-17)	39,929	11,909	73,146	57,758	575,350	1,006,334	101,865	90,609	274,281	324,433	2,758	4,295	3,783	2,566,450
Homicide														
number	1	0	2	0	12	12	9	11	12	6	0	0	0	65
rate	3	0	3	0	2	1	9	12	4	2	0	0	0	3
% change in rate*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assault (Levels 1,2,3)														
number	482	147	1,281	756	4,750	10,834	1,847	2,310	3,323	3,218	104	243	122	29,417
rate	1,207	1,234	1,751	1,309	826	1,077	1,813	2,549	1,212	992	3,771	5,658	3,225	1,146
% change in rate*	-6.4	116.2	4.3	9.8	-5.2	-3.9	-9.4	1.2	-3.2	0.4	23.6	-24.5	-46.8	-3.3
Sexual Assault (Levels 1,2,3)														
number	27	3	63	64	533	894	85	121	200	193	5	15	9	2,212
rate	68	25	86	111	93	89	83	134	73	59	181	349	238	86
% change in rate*	-30.7	-69.6	18.0	13.2	-3.1	-2.6	-40.3	-9.3	-18.4	-13.3	2.2	6.6	-54.7	-8.2
Robbery														
number	10	0	121	17	582	2,165	236	266	355	309	2	5	2	4,070
rate	25	0	165	29	101	215	232	294	129	95	73	116	53	159
% change in rate*	-35.8	-100	40.7	-22.1	-1.4	16.4	-3.2	-5.8	12.4	4.5	-59.1	-37.8	101.5	9.3
Violent crime - Total														
number	544	153	1,531	902	6,232	14,566	2,275	2,859	4,075	3,913	116	284	138	37,588
rate	1,362	1,285	2,093	1,562	1,083	1,447	2,233	3,155	1,486	1,206	4,206	6,612	3,648	1,465
% change in rate*	-7.5	78.4	6.5	10.6	-5.3	-0.4	-11.4	-0.6	-2.6	0.3	18.6	-20.7	-47.9	-2.2
Breaking & Entering														
number	415	68	452	354	2,157	3,839	1,111	1,840	1,534	1,235	70	320	256	13,651
rate	1,039	571	618	613	375	381	1,091	2,031	559	381	2,538	7,451	6,767	532
% change in rate*	-21.9	38.0	-27.1	-22.9	-17.1	-14.3	-14.8	-13.6	-32.5	-16.6	13.6	4.4	-35.7	-18.6
Motor vehicle theft														
number	89	32	162	114	939	1,348	489	629	762	479	15	67	38	5,163
rate	223	269	221	197	163	134	480	694	278	148	544	1,560	1,004	201
% change in rate*	-44.3	62.3	-26.2	-28.2	-4.0	-15.1	-34.6	-32.7	-10.7	-25.9	9.5	-20.7	-50.3	-20.6
Other theft														
number	466	145	1,184	886	5,284	13,996	1,542	2,917	5,701	5,240	98	167	101	37,727
rate	1,167	1,218	1,619	1,534	918	1,391	1,514	3,219	2,079	1,615	3,553	3,888	2,670	1,470
% change in rate*	-18.5	-7.5	8.2	12.1	-12.3	-3.5	-26.5	-9.8	-12.3	-8.4	-16.5	-43.9	-14.5	-8.7
Property crime - Total														
number	1,043	265	2,411	1,495	9,240	24,083	3,446	6,038	9,188	7,643	196	579	404	66,031
rate	2,612	2,225	3,296	2,588	1,606	2,393	3,383	6,664	3,350	2,356	7,107	13,481	10,679	2,573
% change in rate*	-23.7	3.0	-4.4	-3.6	-12.0	-5.7	-23.5	-14.0	-16.5	-12.4	-6.4	-19.8	-33.0	-11.6
Bail violations														
number	175	14	326	124	487	5,120	819	2,158	1,789	670	31	62	27	11,802
rate	438	118	446	215	85	509	804	2,382	652	207	1,124	1,444	714	460
% change in rate*	-7.8	136.7	19.5	6.8	4.1	0.8	-21.9	-1.8	-18.6	2.5	32.0	-18.9	-38.2	-5.0
Mischief														
number	588	229	1,222	842	2,422	6,162	1,338	3,235	3,972	3,151	175	368	172	23,876
rate	1,473	1,923	1,671	1,458	421	612	1,314	3,570	1,448	971	6,345	8,568	4,547	930
% change in rate*	3.6	73.4	7.8	-0.3	-5.4	-3.4	-12.3	21.5	1.3	-8.0	24.2	-8.3	-28.4	-0.7
Other Criminal Code offences - Total														
number	1,242	383	2,839	2,094	6,381	20,029	4,219	7,923	9,960	9,139	410	848	376	65,843
rate	3,111	3,216	3,881	3,625	1,109	1,990	4,142	8,744	3,631	2,817	14,866	19,744	9,939	2,566
% change in rate*	-2.6	42.9	7.1	8.9	-7.6	-3.0	-5.8	8.3	-4.7	-4.9	13.6	-7.0	-31.0	-2.6
Criminal Code - Total - (excluding traffic)														
number	2,829	801	6,781	4,491	21,853	58,678	9,940	16,820	23,223	20,695	722	1,711	918	169,462
rate	7,085	6,726	9,271	7,776	3,798	5,831	9,758	18,563	8,467	6,379	26,178	39,837	24,266	6,603
% change in rate*	-12.4	31.1	2.6	4.7	-8.9	-3.5	-13.9	-2.3	-9.4	-6.9	8.0	-14.1	-35.0	-6.3

... Figures not appropriate or applicable

In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

1. Youths accused equals the total of youths cleared by charge and youths cleared otherwise (e.g. application of extrajudicial measures).

2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

3. Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For further information, please contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 19th floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 at (613) 951-9023 or call toll-free 1 800 387-2231.

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Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2004/2005

by Karen Beattie



Highlights

- On an average day in 2004/2005, there were approximately 152,600 adults in custody or under community supervision, a slight decline of 1% from 2003/2004 yet an increase of 3% since 1995/1996.
- Remand counts continued to increase, rising 5% from 2003/2004 (9,200) to 2004/2005 (9,600), while provincial/territorial sentenced custody counts were relatively unchanged.
- Non-sentenced custody counts (e.g. remand and other temporary detention) represented half of all provincial/territorial custodial counts, equivalent to the proportion of offenders in sentenced custody. Over the past decade, remand counts increased by 83%, other temporary detention was up 26% and sentenced custody counts dropped 31%.
- The average count of offenders on conditional sentence increased 2% from the previous year and by 33% since 2000/2001.
- In 2004/2005, there were nearly 357,200 admissions to correctional services, unchanged from 2003/2004. Over one-third (35%) of all admissions were to remand, followed by probation (23%) and provincial/territorial sentenced custody (22%).
- More than one-third (36%) of all conditional sentence admissions for drug offences carried a conditional sentence term of 18 months or greater, roughly twice the proportion of those admitted for a violent offence (18%) or property offence (15%).
- In 2004/2005, women represented 10% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 5% of admissions to federal custody, 11% of admissions to remand, and 17% of probation and conditional sentence admissions.
- Nearly one-third (30%) of all females and one-in-five males (21%) admitted to sentenced custody were Aboriginal.
- Correctional services expenditures totalled \$2.8 billion in 2004/2005, up 2% in constant dollars from 2003/2004. Custodial services accounted for the largest proportion (71%) of the expenditures, followed by community supervision services (14%), headquarters and central services (14%), and National Parole Board and provincial parole boards (2%).



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Introduction

This *Juristat* provides information on the adult correctional system, including trends in the supervision of adults in custody and in the community, as well as the cost of these services, during the 2004/2005 fiscal year.¹

The federal government and the provincial and territorial governments share the administration of correctional services in Canada, which include custody (sentenced custody, remand and other temporary detention) and community-based sentences as well as statutory release and parole supervision. Correctional services agencies at both levels of government work toward the same goals - the protection of society as well as the rehabilitation of offenders and their safe reintegration into communities.

Adult offenders sentenced to custody terms of two years or more fall under the federal penitentiary system. Federal correctional services are provided by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), an agency of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. While the CSC is responsible for the administration of sentences and supervision of offenders, decisions to grant, deny, cancel, terminate or revoke parole are made by the National Parole Board (NPB), which is also an agency of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. The NPB operates at the federal level and in the provinces and territories that do not have their own parole board.

Custody sentences of less than two years and community-based sanctions, such as probation and conditional sentences, are the responsibility of the provinces and territories, as are pre-trial detention (remand) and other forms of temporary detention (e.g. immigration holds). In addition, three jurisdictions – Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia – have their own parole boards and are authorized to grant releases to offenders serving less than two years in prison. (See the section on definitions at the end of the *Juristat* for a description of the different types of sentences and releases).

Correctional system average counts decline slightly in 2004/2005

On average, there were approximately 152,600 adults under custodial or community supervision on any given day in 2004/2005, a slight decline of 1% from 2003/2004. An average of 32,100 offenders were in custody (21%), while approximately 120,500 (79%) were supervised in the community (Text table 1).

The average count of sentenced inmates in federal or provincial/territorial custody (22,100 offenders) declined by 1% while an average of approximately 350 offenders were held in other temporary detention such as immigration holds, relatively unchanged from the previous year. Approximately 9,600 adults were held on remand in 2004/2005, an increase of 5% from 2003/04.

On any given day in 2004/2005, there were 2% fewer adults supervised in the community compared to 2003/2004. The average number of offenders on probation declined by 2% to 98,800 offenders, while the average number of offenders on provincial parole declined by 9%. The number of offenders on a conditional sentence on any given day increased slightly from 2003/2004 by 2% (Text table 1).

1. For more detailed data on adult correctional services in Canada, see CANSIM table series 251-0001 to 251-0007.

Text box 1

Data sources and measures

The data in this *Juristat* are primarily drawn from the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey, Key Indicator Report (KIR) and the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey for correctional services conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. All admission and release data for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, the Correctional Service of Canada, as well as community admissions and releases for Alberta are taken from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) that is being implemented and which will eventually replace the ACS survey (see Methodology section for information on the ICSS).

This *Juristat* makes use of two basic indicators that describe the use of correctional services: the average number or count of offenders on any given day and the number of annual admissions to correctional facilities or to community supervision programs.

Counts of the number of persons in custody or serving a sentence in the community at a given point in time provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as a key operational measure to measure the utilization of services, such as bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily

counts in their facilities and monthly counts of offenders under community supervision. Average counts are more likely to be driven by the length of time under correctional supervision. Average count statistics therefore are more representative of longer term inmates and offenders serving longer term community supervision orders compared to admissions.

Admissions data are collected when an offender enters an institution or community supervision program, and describe and measure the caseload in correctional agencies over time. While aggregate admissions include all persons passing through the correctional system, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals in the correctional system. The same person can be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g. from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year. Although the ACS survey attempts to standardize the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictional operational systems may restrict uniform application of the definitions in some situations. For this reason, inter-jurisdictional comparisons of the number of admissions should be made with caution.

Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements can be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Methodology section at the end of the *Juristat*.

Text table 1

Composition of average count of the adult correctional population, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

Correctional services	2003/2004		2004/2005		% change from 2003/2004
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	
Custodial supervision:					
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	9,863 ^r	6.4	9,830	6.4	-0.3
Remand	9,163 ^r	5.9	9,640	6.3	5.2
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	342 ^r	0.2	346	0.2	1.3
Total provincial/territorial custody	19,368 ^r	12.5	19,816	13.0	2.3
Federal custody, sentenced	12,380 ^r	8.0	12,301	8.1	-0.6
Total custodial supervision	31,747^r	20.6	32,117	21.0	1.2
Community supervision:					
Probation	100,993	65.4	98,805	64.7	-2.2
Provincial parole	885	0.6	810	0.5	-8.5
Conditional sentences	13,632	8.8	13,931	9.1	2.2
Total provincial community supervision	115,510	74.8	113,546	74.4	-1.7
Community releases (CSC) ¹	7,094 ^r	4.6	6,954	4.6	-2.0
Total community supervision	122,604^r	79.4	120,500	79.0	-1.7
Total correctional services	154,351^r	100.0	152,618	100.0	-1.1

^r revised

1. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Remand counts continue to rise

In 2004/2005, approximately 9,600 adults were held in remand awaiting trial or sentencing on any given day, an increase of 5% from 2003/2004. All jurisdictions reported increases in the average count of persons on remand, with the exception of Prince Edward Island (-12%)², Nova Scotia (-3%), New Brunswick (-2%) and Manitoba (-8%). The largest increases occurred in the Yukon (+22%), Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) (+18%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+13%) and Quebec (+12%) (See Text table 2).

The increase in the average daily count of adults held on remand in 2004/2005 is a continuation of a trend that began in the mid-1980s. Over the past decade since 1995/1996, the average daily remand count has grown substantially from approximately 5,300 to 9,600 adults, representing an increase of 83% (Text table 3). During this time period, average counts increased in all jurisdictions, from lows in Quebec (+41%) and Prince Edward Island (+47%) to highs in Manitoba (+142%), Alberta (+115%) and Saskatchewan (+102%), whose average counts more than doubled in the past decade (Text table 2).

As is the case with remand, the average daily count of adults in other temporary detention has also increased in the last decade (+26%). This increase may be attributed to several factors, including the increase in the number of immigration holds after the events on September 11, 2001, and changes in judicial practices in the use of temporary detention (e.g., judicial assessment orders) (Text table 3).³

Text table 2

Variation in the average count of persons in provincial and territorial sentenced custody and on remand between 1995/1996 and 2004/2005

Province/ territory	Sentenced custody					Remand ¹				
	1995/1996	2003/2004	2004/2005	% change from 2003/2004	% change from 1995/1996	1995/1996	2003/2004	2004/2005	% change from 2003/2004	% change from 1995/1996
Newfoundland and Labrador	319	210	210	0.2	-34.1	36	50	56	13.1	55.9
Prince Edward Island	96	51	50	-0.7	-47.5	11	18	16	-12.3	46.7
Nova Scotia	337	171 ^r	185	8.5	-45.0	61	115	113	-2.5	84.4
New Brunswick	353	204	212	4.0	-40.0	48	95	93	-1.5	94.4
Quebec	2,303	2,283	2,246	-1.6	-2.5	1,167	1,475	1,645	11.5	41.0
Ontario	4,690	2,957	2,896	-2.1	-38.3	2,465	4,490	4,670	4.0	89.4
Manitoba	696	515	487	-5.4	-30.0	272	715 ^r	659	-7.8	142.4
Saskatchewan	1,088	826	827	0.1	-24.0	179	331 ^r	361	9.1	101.7
Alberta	2,084	1,220	1,218	-0.2	-41.6	466	941	1,003	6.6	115.2
British Columbia	1,933	1,146	1,215	6.0	-37.2	501	847	921	8.8	83.9
Yukon	63	25	30	18.3	-52.8	21	27	33	22.4	55.3
Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) ²	278	256	253	-1.2	-9.0	39	59 ^r	70	18.3	79.9
Provincial/territorial total	14,240	9,863^r	9,830	-0.3	-31.0	5,266	9,163^r	9,640	5.2	83.1

^r revised

1. Remand counts may include other temporary detention counts.

2. Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been combined to allow calculation of percentage change.

Notes: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Key Indicator Report (KIR).

Counts of sentenced custody offenders continue to decline

While the number of adults held in remand awaiting trial or sentencing has increased over the past decade, the number of offenders in provincial/territorial sentenced custody has declined significantly (-31%), from 14,200 to 9,800. All jurisdictions reported decreases in the average count of offenders held in sentenced custody since 1995/1996, ranging from a 3% decline in Quebec to a 53% decline in the Yukon (Text table 2).

In the federal correctional system, the number of offenders in sentenced custody on any given day also declined over the past decade by 13%, from 14,100 to 12,300 offenders (Text table 3).

- Between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, the absolute decrease in the average count was relatively small, from 18 to 16, and therefore, the percentage change should be used with caution.
- Because of missing data for some years between 1995/1996 and 2004/2005, other temporary detention data from Manitoba and British Columbia, all community supervision data from the New Brunswick, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as conditional sentence data from Nova Scotia, have been excluded in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage of total statistics is based upon adjusted average counts (See Text table 3).

Text table 3

Composition of the adult correctional population, average counts, 1995/96, 2000/2001, and 2004/2005

	1995/1996			2000/2001			2004/2005			% change in adjusted average count	
	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	Actual average count	Adjusted average count ¹	% of total ¹	from 2000/2001	from 1995/1996
Correctional services											
Custodial supervision:											
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	14,240	14,240	9.8	10,978	10,978	7.3	9,830	9,830	6.6	-10.5	-31.0
Remand ²	5,266	5,266	3.6	7,427	7,427	4.9	9,640	9,640	6.4	29.8	83.1
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	223	219	0.2	416	217	0.1	346	276	0.2	26.9	25.7
Total provincial/territorial custody	19,730	19,726	13.6	18,821	18,622	12.3	19,816	19,745	13.2	6.0	0.1
Federal custody, sentenced	14,076	14,076	9.7	12,642	12,642	8.4	12,301	12,301	8.2	-2.7	-12.6
Total custodial supervision	33,806	33,802	23.3	31,463	31,264	20.7	32,117	32,046	21.4	2.5	-5.2
Community supervision:											
Probation	101,918	98,358	67.9	100,441	100,441	66.5	98,805	96,610	64.6	-3.8	-1.8
Provincial parole	3,212	3,212	2.2	1,474	1,474	1.0	810	810	0.5	-45.0	-74.8
Conditional sentences	...	...	...	9,885	9,885	6.5	13,931	13,131	8.8	32.8	...
Total provincial community supervision	105,130	101,570	70.1	111,800	111,800	74.0	113,546	110,551	73.9	-1.1	8.8
Community releases (CSC ³)	9,422	9,422	6.5	8,042	8,042	5.3	6,954	6,954	4.7	-13.5	-26.2
Total community supervision	114,552	110,992	76.7	119,842	119,842	79.3	120,500	117,506	78.6	-1.9	5.9
Total correctional services	148,358	144,794	100.0	151,305	151,106	100.0	152,618	149,552	100.0	-1.0	3.3

... not applicable

1. Because of missing data for some years, other temporary detention data from Manitoba and British Columbia, all community supervision data from New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as conditional sentence data from Nova Scotia, have been excluded from the "Adjusted Average Count", in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage of total statistics are based upon adjusted average counts.

2. Figures for remand may include counts for other temporary detention.

3. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Notes: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Shifting composition of offenders in provincial/territorial custody

With the increase in the average daily count of adults in non-sentenced custody (i.e. remand and temporary detention) and the simultaneous decrease in sentenced custody counts, there has been an important change in the composition of the custodial population. While, on average, 16% of all adults supervised in custody were held in provincial/territorial non-sentenced custody on any given day in 1995/1996, almost twice as many were held in non-sentenced custody in 2004/2005 (31%). In contrast, while offenders in sentenced custody accounted for 84% of all custodial average counts in 1995/1996, they accounted for 69% in 2004/2005 (Text table 3).

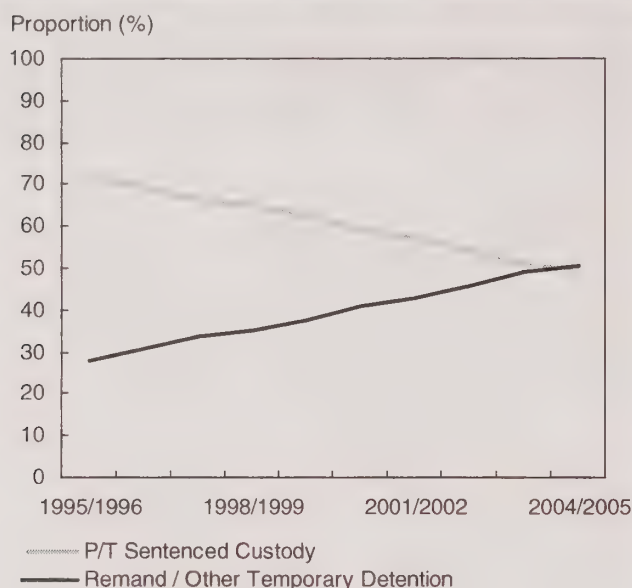
In the provincial/territorial system alone, the proportional representation of adults in non-sentenced custody relative to those in sentenced custody marks an even more dramatic shift over the past decade (Text table 4). In 1995/1996, the number of adults held in non-sentenced custody on an average day (5,500) accounted for 28% of all adults in provincial/territorial custody while 72%, or 14,200 offenders, were in sentenced custody. A decade later in 2004/2005, non-sentenced adults

(9,900) and sentenced offenders (9,800) in custody each represented half of all offenders in custody on an average day (Text table 4, Figure 1).

This substantial change in the makeup of the custodial population over the past decade varied among the jurisdictions. Given the small decline in the average number of offenders in sentenced custody in Quebec since 1995/1996, the increase in the proportional representation of adults in non-sentenced custody over the past decade was smaller than that for other jurisdictions, increasing from 34% to 42% of all adults in the custodial population (See Text table 4). In other jurisdictions, the effects of the decline in sentenced custody counts and the corresponding increase in the average daily count of adults in non-sentenced custody was more prominent. In Ontario, the proportional share of non-sentenced adults among the total custodial population increased from 36% to 63% between 1995/1996 and 2004/2005. Alberta's non-sentenced custody population accounted for 45% of the provincial/territorial custodial population in 2004/2005 up from 18% a decade earlier, while the largest increase was found in Manitoba where the proportional share of non-sentenced adults in custody increased from 28% to 58% (Text table 4).

Figure 1

Individuals in non-sentenced custody, such as remand or other temporary detention, account for a growing proportion of all adults in custody, 1995/1996 to 2004/2005



Note: To allow year-over-year comparisons, other temporary detention data from Manitoba and British Columbia have been excluded from the totals due to missing data for some years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Key Indicator Report (KIR).

The average daily number of offenders in the federal custodial system declined by 13% between 1995/1996 and 2004/2005, from 14,000 to 12,300 offenders (Text table 3). During the same time period, the average number of offenders in provincial/territorial custody remained relatively unchanged. Consequently, while the decline in the number of offenders in federal custody is contributing to the overall decrease in the number of all adults in custody in the past decade (-5%), the stability in the provincial/territorial system, which supervises nearly two-thirds of all adults in custody (62%), minimizes the overall decrease in the average number of adults in custody in Canada.

Average number of offenders in the community down in 2004/2005

On an average day in 2004/2005, slightly more than 120,500 offenders were under community supervision, down by nearly 2% from 2003/2004. The average number of offenders in the community decreased for all types of community supervision with the exception of those on a conditional sentence, which increased by 2%. There were 2% fewer adults on probation, and 9% fewer adults on provincial parole on any given day in 2004/2005. In the federal system, the average number of offenders on community release (including offenders on day parole, full parole, and statutory release) decreased by 2% (Text table 1).

Text box 2

The impact of Bill C-9 (subject to change as Bill C-9 progresses in Parliament)

In May 2006, An Act to amend the conditional sentence of imprisonment provisions of the *Criminal Code* was introduced in the House of Commons. Bill C-9 amends section 742.1 of the *Criminal Code* to provide that a person convicted of an offence prosecuted by way of indictment for which the maximum term of imprisonment is 10 years or more is no longer eligible for a conditional sentence. The new amendments would eliminate the Conditional Sentence as a sentencing option for over 100 offences in the *Criminal Code* and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* that are prosecuted by way of indictment and does not distinguish between violent versus non-violent offences. Included in the list of eligible offences are: *possession of stolen property over \$5,000, uttering a forged document, sexual assault and possession of drugs for the purpose of trafficking.*

The implementation of the conditional sentence in 1996 provided the courts with a new sanctioning option that permitted a sentence of imprisonment to be served in the community and to reduce the reliance on incarceration. Since its implementation, the conditional sentence has been viewed as an important factor in the decline in the number of offenders in sentenced custody and the corresponding increase in the caseload of offenders under community supervision.¹ While the exact impact of Bill C-9 on the custodial and community supervision population is not known, it is likely that the effect of Bill C-9 will be an increase in the provincial/territorial sentenced custody population.² As noted in Text Box 6, some jurisdictions have reached their levels of institutional capacity in recent years, largely the result of increasing remand populations. Additional increases in the number of incarcerated adults could put further strain on capacity in the institutions. Moreover, a larger custodial population will also increase expenditures for custodial supervision, which are higher than expenditures for community supervision.

1. Hendrick, D. M. Martin and P. Greenberg. 2003. "Conditional sentencing in Canada: A statistical profile 1997-2001". Catalogue no. 85-560-XIE. Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

2. The conditional sentence can only be applied where the judge has determined that the offence should be subject to a term of imprisonment of less than two years. Therefore, the proposed changes should have a greater impact on the provincial/territorial system compared to the federally sentenced inmate population where the effect may be minimal.

Note: For further information on the proposed legislation or conditional sentences, see MacKay, R. 2006. "Bill C-9: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Conditional sentence of imprisonment)." Library of Parliament, Law and Government Division, LS-526E.

In 2004/2005, the average count of offenders on probation declined by 2%, from 2003/2004 to 98,800 in 2004/2005 (Text table 1). All jurisdictions reported decreases or little change except for Nova Scotia (+2%) and New Brunswick (+4%). The largest decreases were reported in Yukon for the second consecutive year (-16%). Since 1995/1996, although probation average counts have fluctuated year to year, the average number of adults on probation decreased by 2%. Overall, the proportional representation of probationers among all adults under community supervision has decreased from 89% of offenders in 1995/1996 to 84% in 2000/2001, to 82% in 2004/2005 (Text table 3).

Offenders on conditional sentences continue to comprise a significant proportion of the population under community supervision. In 2004/2005, offenders on conditional sentences represented 12% of the population under community

Text table 4

Distribution of average count of offenders in provincial/territorial custodial supervision by province/territory, 1995/1996, 2000/2001, 2004/2005

Province/territory		Provincial/territorial sentenced custody		Remand/Other temporary detention		Total
		Number	Proportion of custodial services count	Number	Proportion of custodial services count	Number
Newfoundland and Labrador	1995/1996	319	89.9	36	10.1	355
	2000/2001	225	77.9	64	22.1	288
	2004/2005	210	75.0	70	25.0	280
Prince Edward Island	1995/1996	96	89.7	11	10.3	107
	2000/2001	73	84.5	13	15.5	86
	2004/2005	50	68.0	24	32.0	74
Nova Scotia	1995/1996	337	83.0	69	17.0	407
	2000/2001	230 ^r	66.0	118	34.0	348 ^r
	2004/2005	185	59.9	124	40.1	310
New Brunswick	1995/1996	353	85.9	58	14.1	411
	2000/2001	204	72.1	79	27.9	283
	2004/2005	212	65.7	111	34.3	323
Quebec	1995/1996	2,303	66.4	1,167	33.6	3,470
	2000/2001	2,027	62.9	1,197	37.1	3,224
	2004/2005	2,246	57.7	1,645	42.3	3,891
Ontario	1995/1996	4,690	63.8	2,666	36.2	7,356
	2000/2001	3,737	49.0	3,886	51.0	7,623
	2004/2005	2,896	37.2	4,879	62.8	7,774
Manitoba ¹	1995/1996	696	71.9	272	28.1	968
	2000/2001	596	53.4	520	46.6	1,116
	2004/2005	487	42.5	659	57.5	1,147
Saskatchewan	1995/1996	1,088	85.9	179	14.1	1,267
	2000/2001	826	73.1	304	26.9	1,130
	2004/2005	827	68.7	377	31.3	1,204
Alberta	1995/1996	2,084	81.7	466	18.3	2,550
	2000/2001	1,323	69.5	580	30.5	1,903
	2004/2005	1,218	54.8	1,003	45.2	2,221
British Columbia ¹	1995/1996	1,933	79.4	501	20.6	2,434
	2000/2001	1,476	64.5	811	35.5	2,287
	2004/2005	1,215	56.9	921	43.1	2,136
Yukon	1995/1996	63	75.0	21	25.0	84
	2000/2001	35	65.9	18	34.1	53
	2004/2005	30	47.7	33	52.3	62
Northwest Territories ²	1995/1996	278	87.7	39	12.3	317
	2000/2001	163	85.3	28	14.7	191
	2004/2005	199	86.3	32	13.7	230
Nunavut	1995/1996	...	...	...	...	...
	2000/2001	63	70.7	26	29.3	89
	2004/2005	54	58.4	39	41.6	93
Total	1995/1996	14,240	72.2	5,485	27.8	19,726
	2000/2001	10,978^r	59.0	7,644	41.0	18,622^r
	2004/2005	9,830	49.8	9,916	50.2	19,745

^r revised

... not applicable

1. Other temporary detention data unavailable for some years, and are therefore excluded from the total.

2. Data for Northwest Territories in 1995/1996 also include Nunavut data for that year, while subsequent years do not.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Key Indicator Report (KIR).

supervision, compared to 8% in 2000/2001. Overall, the average count of offenders on conditional sentence increased 2% from the previous year and by 33% since 2000/2001 (Text table 3).

Community releases from custody continue to decrease

The use of provincial parole and community release in the federal system continues to decline. In 2004/2005 there were, on average, about 810 persons on provincial parole on any given day, down by nearly 9% from 2003/2004 (Text table 1), by more than 45% since 2000/2001 and by 75% in the last ten years (Text table 3). The average count of offenders on federal community release (day parole, full parole and statutory release) in 2004/2005 also dropped by 2% from 2003/2004, and by nearly 26% over the past decade. As Text table 3 illustrates, the share of the total correctional population represented by offenders on provincial parole or community release from the federal system declined from 9% in 1995/1996 to 5% in 2004/2005.

Incarceration rate varies among the provinces/territories

The adult incarceration rate remained stable in 2004/2005. For every 100,000 adults in Canada in 2004/2005 129 were incarcerated, unchanged from 2003/2004 (Text table 5). The adult incarceration rate is calculated as the average daily

number of incarcerated adults (sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detention) for every 100,000 adults in Canada (see Table 1 for Adult Population figures).

In 2004/2005, the overall provincial/territorial incarceration rate was 79 per 100,000 adult population, unchanged from 2003/2004 (Text table 5). Among the provinces there was substantial variability in incarceration rates in 2004/2005, ranging from a low of 42 in Nova Scotia to a high of 160 in Saskatchewan. The Territories continued to report much higher rates of incarceration relative to their population (263 in Yukon and 680 in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut). Incarceration rates in 2004/2005 increased or remained relatively unchanged from 2003/2004 in all jurisdictions, except for Prince Edward Island (-2%) and Manitoba (-8%). The largest increase in the provincial/territorial incarceration rate in 2004/2005 was found in the Yukon (+17%) followed by a 6% increase in British Columbia (Text table 5).

Adult incarceration rates in Canada have declined 16% since 1995/1996 (153 per 100,000) although the rate of decline over the past decade has been larger in the federal system (-23%) than in the provincial/territorial systems (-11%). One important reason for this difference is that the substantial increase in the number of adults awaiting trial or sentencing is offsetting the decline in the number of adults in provincial/territorial sentenced custody while the federal system does not house remanded individuals.

Text table 5

Variation in adult incarceration rates over time, provincial, territorial and federal correctional services, 2000/2001 to 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	rate per 100,000 adult population ¹					% change	
	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	from 2003/2004	from 2000/2001
Newfoundland and Labrador	70	77	72	65	68	3.5	-3.5
Prince Edward Island	84	62	76	71	69	-2.2	-17.2
Nova Scotia	48	42 ^r	40	40	42	3.8	-13.2
New Brunswick	48	53	53	52	54	3.6	11.4
Quebec	56	61	63	63	65	2.5	15.9
Ontario	85	86	87	81	81	-0.4	-5.4
Manitoba	130	129	136	140	129	-7.8	-0.6
Saskatchewan	152	154	163	157 ^r	160	2.1	5.4
Alberta	85	91	90	90	91	0.9	7.1
British Columbia	79	69	64	62 ^r	66	6.0	-16.4
Yukon	236	239	226	224 ^r	263	17.4	11.6
Northwest Territories & Nunavut ²	646	640	687	679	680	0.1	5.3
Provincial/territorial total	80	81	81	79	79	0.9	-0.7
Federal total	54	53	52 ^r	50 ^r	49	-2.0	-8.2
Total	134	133^r	133^r	129^r	129	-0.2	-3.7

^r revised

1. Average number of adults in sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detention per 100,000 adult population.

2. Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been combined to allow calculation of percentage change.

Note: Rates have been rounded; however, the percent change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey; Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Census.

Admissions to correctional services stable in 2004/2005

In 2004/2005, there were approximately 357,200 admissions to correctional service programs, unchanged from 2003/2004.⁴ Approximately 70% of admissions were to custody while the remaining 30% were to community supervision. More than one-third of admissions to correctional services were to custodial remand (35%), followed by probation (23%) and provincial/territorial sentenced custody (22%). Approximately 2% of admissions were to federal custody (Text table 6). Over the past decade since 1995/1996, admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody declined by 32% while admissions to federally sentenced custody remained stable (Text table 7).

Since 1995/1996, total admissions to correctional supervision decreased slightly by 1%, largely the result of a decline in the number of custodial admissions (-8%), especially to provincial/territorial sentenced custody (-32%) during this time period (Text table 7). In spite of this decline in custodial admissions, there have been increases in provincial/territorial admissions to remand (+14%), and other temporary detention (+21%).

While custodial admissions decreased in the past decade (-8%), community admissions increased by 18% (Text table 7).⁵ One reason for the increase in the number of community admissions is the introduction of the conditional sentence in 1996. Approximately 17,700 adult offenders were admitted to a conditional sentence in 2004/2005, up 8% from 16,400 admissions in 2000/2001.

Admissions to custody

In 2004/2005, there were approximately 87,000 sentenced admissions to the federal and provincial/territorial custodial systems, a 2% decrease from 88,700 admissions in the previous year. Nearly, 79,200 adult offenders were admitted to provincial/territorial sentenced custody in 2004/2005, down 2% from 81,100 admissions in 2003/2004. Federally sentenced admissions increased 4% from the previous year (Text table 6; see Table 2 for provincial/territorial data).

More than one-third of all admissions (35%) in the correctional system in Canada in 2004/2005, approximately 125,900, were to remanded custody to await trial or sentencing, a 2% increase from 124,000 admissions in 2003/2004 (Text table 6). Admissions to other temporary detention (e.g. immigration holds) decreased in 2004/2005 for the first time since 1998/99. There were 35,700 admissions in 2004/2005 compared to 38,200 admissions in 2003/2004, representing a 6% decline. In spite of this decrease, other temporary detention admissions have increased steadily by 55% since 2000/2001 and by 21% since 1995/1996. Similarly, remand admissions have increased by more than 5% since 2000/2001 and by 14% over the past decade (Text table 7).

4. See Text box 1 'Data sources and measures', earlier in this report for a definition of admissions. See Text table 6 for percentage change between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005.
5. Due to missing data for some years, all data from Prince Edward Island and Manitoba, other temporary detention data from New Brunswick and British Columbia, and community supervision data from Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage changes are based upon adjusted admissions (see Text table 7 for these adjusted admissions).

Text table 6

Composition of admissions to the adult correctional population, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

Correctional services	2003/2004		2004/2005		% change from 2003/2004
	Number	% of total ¹	Number	% of total ¹	
Custodial supervision:					
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	81,123 ^r	22.8	79,193	22.2	-2.4
Remand	123,990 ^r	34.8	125,871	35.2	1.5
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	38,176 ^r	10.7	35,722	10.0	-6.4
Total provincial/territorial custody	243,289 ^r	68.3	240,786	67.4	-1.0
Federal custody, sentenced	7,562 ^r	2.1	7,826	2.2	3.5
Total custodial supervision	250,851^r	70.4	248,612	69.6	-0.9
Community supervision:					
Probation	77,606 ^r	21.8	80,561	22.6	3.8
Provincial parole	1,860	0.5	1,755	0.5	-5.6
Conditional sentences	18,603 ^r	5.2	18,916	5.3	1.7
Total provincial community supervision	98,069 ^r	27.5	101,232	28.3	3.2
Community releases (CSC) ²	7,397 ^r	2.1	7,326	2.1	-1.0
Total community supervision	105,466^r	29.6	108,558	30.4	2.9
Total correctional services	356,317^r	100.0	357,170	100.0	0.2

^r revised

1. Excludes Prince Edward Island due to missing data.

2. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey; Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Text table 7

Composition of the adult correctional population, admissions, 1995/1996, 2000/2001 and 2004/2005

	1995/1996			2000/2001			2004/2005			% change in adjusted admissions	
	Admissions	Adjusted admissions ¹	% of total ¹	Admissions	Adjusted admissions ¹	% of total ¹	Admissions	Adjusted admissions ¹	% of total ¹	from 2000/2001	from 1995/1996
Correctional services											
Custodial supervision:											
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	114,562	111,136	35.1	80,928	77,441	25.4	79,193	75,685	24.2	-2.3	-31.9
Remand ²	106,467	102,774	32.5	118,566	111,435	36.6	125,871	117,481	37.6	5.4	14.3
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	12,484	8,721	2.8	24,901	6,778	2.2	35,722	10,534	3.4	55.4	20.8
Total provincial/territorial custody	233,513	222,631	70.3	224,395	195,654	64.3	240,786	203,700	65.1	4.1	-8.5
Federal custody, sentenced	7,850	7,850	2.5	7,722	7,722	2.5	7,826	7,826	2.5	1.3	-0.3
Total custodial supervision	241,363	230,481	72.8	232,117	203,376	66.8	248,612	211,526	67.6	4.0	-8.2
Community supervision:											
Probation	76,940	73,079	23.1	81,939	74,595	24.5	80,561	74,376	23.8	-0.3	1.8
Provincial parole	5,536	5,536	1.7	2,745	2,745	0.9	1,755	1,755	0.6	-36.1	-68.3
Conditional sentences	...	...	...	17,084	16,339	5.4	18,916	17,699	5.7	8.3	...
Total provincial community supervision	82,476	78,615	24.8	101,768	93,679	30.8	101,232	93,830	30.0	0.2	19.4
Community releases (CSC ³)	7,487	7,487	2.4	7,436	7,436	2.4	7,326	7,326	2.3	-1.5	-2.2
Total community supervision	89,963	86,102	27.2	109,204	101,115	33.2	108,558	101,156	32.4	0.0	17.5
Total correctional services	331,326	316,583	100.0	341,321	304,491	100.0	357,170	312,682	100.0	2.7	-1.2

... not applicable

1. Because of missing data for some years, all data from Prince Edward Island and Manitoba, other temporary detention data from New Brunswick and British Columbia, and community supervision data from Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from "Adjusted Admissions" in order to make comparisons between years. The percentage of total statistics are based upon adjusted admissions.

2. Figures for remand may include admissions for other temporary detention.

3. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Time spent in remand increases over last decade

One key factor influencing the increasing size of the average daily custody count is the increasing length of time spent in remanded custody. An increasing number of adults have been admitted to remand over the past decade (+14%) and, as a result of longer stays in remand, the average number of adults in remand has also increased during this time period (+83%), thereby causing institutional bed spaces to be filled for a longer period of time.

In 2004/2005, more than half of all adults remanded in custody were held for less than a week (54%). Approximately 25% of adults released from remanded custody were held for a period of 8 to 29 days, while 14% spent between 1 and 3 months (30 to 89 days) in remand and the remaining 7% were held for more than 3 months (90 days+) (Figure 2).

Over the past decade, the amount of time served on remand has increased. Between 1995/1996 and 2004/2005, the proportion of adults who served less than a week in remand decreased from 66% to 54%. In addition, while 20% of adults served between 1 week and 1 month (8 to 29 days) in remand

in 1995/1996, 25% of adults had served the same amount of time in 2004/2005. The proportion of adults who spent between 1 and 3 months (30 to 90 days) in remand during the past decade increased from 10% to 14%, while the proportion of adults who served more than 3 months in remand (90 + days) nearly doubled from 4% to 7%.

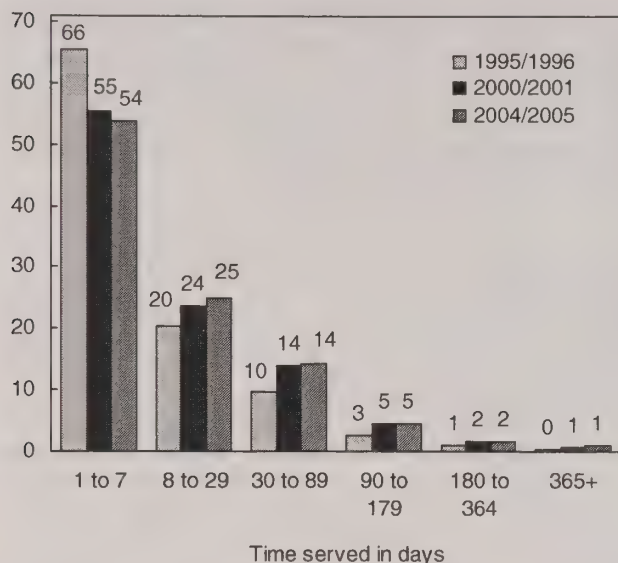
Offenders spending shorter periods in sentenced custody

Contrary to the trend in the length of time served in remand, aggregate sentence lengths for those admitted to sentenced custody have been decreasing in both the provincial and federal systems. In the provincial/territorial system in 2004/2005, 23% of offenders were admitted to custody with aggregate sentences of less than one week, up from 14% a decade earlier. In contrast, the number of adult admissions with aggregate sentence lengths greater than one week and less than one month (8 to 29 days) declined by 5 percentage points from 23% of admissions in 1995/1996 to 18% in 2004/2005. The proportion of adults who were admitted to sentenced custody with aggregate sentences of one to three months (30 to 89 days) also decreased slightly, from 29% to 27% of

Figure 2

Length of time served in remand increasing, 1995/1996, 2000/2001 and 2004/2005^{1,2}

Proportion of remand releases (%)



1. 'Time Served' calculations exclude releases from remand for which length of time served is unknown. Prior to 1998/99, 'Time Served' excluded lengths of two years or more.
2. Number of days represented in the 'Time Served' categories has changed slightly over the years.

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey (ACS); Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS).

admissions, while the proportion of offenders admitted for more than 3 months in sentenced custody declined from 34% to 32% of admissions.

In the federal system, shorter sentences of two to three years are the most prevalent, and their occurrence has increased substantially in the last five years. The proportion of offenders admitted to federal custody on sentences of two to three years rose from 44% in 2000/2001 to 55% in 2004/2005. In addition, the proportion of offenders admitted to federal custody on sentences of three to four years declined from 22% in 2000/2001 to 19% in 2004/2005 and the proportion admitted with sentences of four to five years dropped from 13% to 8%. Finally, the proportion of those admitted with sentences of five to ten years in duration declined from 15% to 12% while the proportional share of admissions with sentences of 10 years or more, including life sentences, remained relatively stable at 5% of all admissions to federal custody.

Factors influencing the changing custodial population

The increasing number of remand admissions and amount of time served in remand over the past decade, as well as the corresponding decline in sentenced custody admissions during

the same time period, have all been driving forces of change in the custodial population. A number of factors may account for this increase in the remand population. For example, changes in bail practices and policies could affect the probability of bail being denied in many jurisdictions, thereby increasing the remand population. Cases in Canada's adult criminal courts have also become more complex and are taking more time to resolve, increasing the length of stay for adults in remand while they await trial and/or sentencing. According to data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) in 2003/2004, cases involving multiple charges accounted for 51% of the adult courts caseload, up from 44% in 1994/95. In addition, the time required to dispose of court cases continued to grow. On average, cases in 2003/2004 took 226 days compared with 137 days a decade earlier while the average processing time for multiple-charge cases rose from 157 days in 1994/1995 to 236 days in 2003/2004 (Thomas, 2004).

Another important factor affecting the change in the custodial population may be the crediting of time served on remand during sentencing. Judges may, at their discretion, credit an offender with the time spent on remand when determining a sentence. In addition to the length of time served in remand, judges may take the experiences of those held in remand under consideration during the sentencing process. For example, individuals who spend time in remand typically have little or no access to activities such as recreation, work and rehabilitative programs and services in most jurisdictions. Traditional rewards for good behaviour such as remission and the granting of temporary absence passes are also typically not applicable to remands. With the increase in the number of offenders in custody in recent years and the simultaneous decrease in the number of institutional bed spaces in many jurisdictions, judges in some jurisdictions may also be crediting time served for adults who have been held in remand facilities which may either be at capacity or are overcrowded (see Text box 6)

While both the decision to grant credit for time served and the determination of an appropriate amount of time rests with the sentencing judge, a general rule of a 2 to 1 ratio of remand served to sentence given has been considered appropriate (Martin's Criminal Code, 2004). Although there are currently no comprehensive data available to fully explain the practice of granting time served on remand by the courts or the amount of time served being credited, the granting of time served has been identified as an important factor influencing current remand and sentencing trends (Beattie, 2005).

The introduction of the conditional sentence as a sentencing option has also been an influencing factor in the changing composition of the custodial population. Since its introduction, some adult offenders who would have otherwise been admitted to sentenced custody served a conditional sentence in the community instead, thereby contributing to the decline in the number of adults in sentenced custody and increasing the number of persons under community supervision.

Consequences of a growing remand population

Correctional service officials have become increasingly concerned with the growing remand population and the possible effects of the use of time served, length of time served and the changing bail practices and policies in recent years. As

noted previously, admissions to remand have increased by 14% between 1995/1996 and 2004/2005 (Text table 7), and individuals in remand represent an increasing proportion of all adults in provincial/territorial custody in 2004/2005 compared to a decade earlier (Figure 1, Text table 4). At the same time, the number of admissions to sentenced custody declined by 32% (Text table 7). This shift in the composition of the provincial/territorial correctional systems poses numerous challenges for correctional system officials.

As noted previously, institutional programming such as education, substance abuse treatment or other types of rehabilitation are not usually available to individuals in remand, or not applicable to remanded individuals whose stay in custody may be indeterminate and frequently short in duration. This uncertainty and unstructured nature of remand can be challenging for both officials in the remand facility and the individual spending time in remand.

Remanded individuals are usually held in maximum security settings, which are typically expensive to build and maintain. In addition, as a result of an increasing remand population in recent years, the availability of bed spaces for remanded individuals may be limited in many jurisdictions. Remanded individuals who are awaiting trial and/or sentencing also require regular transportation to and from court and remand facilities may not always be in close proximity to the court. Administratively, there is often high volume turnover for remanded adults, as evidenced by the large number of admissions to remand in recent years (Table 2).

There has been a great deal of discussion among provincial/territorial representatives in recent years regarding possible solutions to the increasing remand population. However, the factors associated with this issue are complex and will involve all sectors of the criminal justice system. Many jurisdictions are exploring possible solutions such as increasing the use of bail supervision programs, addressing the use of courts that operate on weekends to reduce the strain on correctional resources, as well as working towards legislative change with officials at the federal government level. Many jurisdictions have also proposed building new remand facilities to address the shortage of bed space since institutional capacity has already been met or has been exceeded in recent years and facilities are overcrowded in many jurisdictions (Text box 6; Heads of Corrections Working Group, 2006).

Substantial variability in offence profiles of admissions to sentenced custody across jurisdictions in 2004/2005⁶

Among the provinces/territories, there was considerable variation in the types of offences for which an offender was admitted to sentenced custody (Table 3). In 2004/2005, *Criminal Code* offences accounted for the majority of sentenced custody admissions in all jurisdictions, ranging from a low of 58% in Quebec to a high of 99% in Nunavut. Sentenced custody admissions for violent offences were most common in Nunavut (83%), the Northwest Territories (61%) and Manitoba (59%) and were less prevalent in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan (17%) and Quebec (7%).

Admission to sentenced custody for other *Criminal Code* offences⁷, such as failure to comply with an order, unlawfully at large or offences against public order, accounted for highest proportion of sentenced admissions in the Yukon (38%) and in Saskatchewan (43%). Overall, property offences represented approximately one-quarter of all sentenced admissions in most jurisdictions, with the exception of Nunavut (8%), the Northwest Territories (16%) and Manitoba and Quebec (18%). In Quebec, 32% of sentenced admissions were for provincial/territorial statutes and municipal by-laws⁸ whereas, in Nova Scotia, nearly one in five sentenced admission was for a violation of a federal statute such as a drug offence or other type federal statute (19%), the highest proportion represented by federal statutes among the jurisdictions (Table 3).

Admissions to community supervision

While admissions to custodial supervision decreased by 1% in 2004/2005, admissions to community supervision increased by 3%. In 2004/2005, there were approximately 108,600 admissions to community supervision, the bulk of which were in the provincial/territorial system with approximately 101,200 admissions to probation, provincial parole or conditional sentence. The remaining 7,300 community admissions were comprised of releases to federal day parole, full parole and statutory release (Text table 6).

In 2004/2005 there were 80,600 admissions to probation, a 4% increase from 2003/2004, and the first annual increase in the number of probation admissions since 2001/02 (Table 4). Admissions to a conditional sentence also increased slightly in 2004/2005 by 2% from the previous year. Admissions to provincial parole in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia were down 6% from 2003/2004, to approximately 1,800 admissions (Text table 6).

Over the past decade since 1995/1996, admissions to community supervision have increased by nearly 18%, largely the result of increases in admissions to conditional sentences since their introduction in 1996. Between 1997/1998, the first year where complete data were available, and 2004/2005, the number of admissions to a conditional sentence almost doubled, from 6,700 to 13,100 admissions (+96%). Since 2000/2001, admissions to conditional sentences have increased by 8% (Text table 7). Probation admissions have remained relatively stable over the past decade, increasing slightly by 2%, while provincial parole admissions and federal community releases

6. When there is more than one offence leading to incarceration, only data related to the most serious offence in the case is recorded (except in Alberta, which uses multiple charge data to record all offences, and British Columbia which uses the most serious disposition methodology). The following jurisdictional analysis includes only those jurisdictions employing the most serious offence methodology.
7. Other *Criminal Code* incidents involve the remaining *Criminal Code* offences not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences), for example, mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.
8. In situations where fines are levied, the offender can be incarcerated for non-payment or, if already incarcerated, seek to serve a custodial sentence in lieu of payment of fines.

Text box 3

Re-involvement in correctional services following release

One measure of a successful outcome after an individual's release from correctional supervision is whether an offender returns to correctional services. The fixed follow-up method, one of many methods to examine a re-involvement in correctional services after release, follows a subject forward from the date of release for a fixed period of time to determine whether or not they had returned to correctional services for a new involvement.¹ The following analysis explores the re-involvement of adults in the correctional system using a fixed follow-up method, in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, between 2002/2003 and 2004/2005. Fixed follow-up rates are presented for adults who have been released from correctional supervision in fiscal year 2002/2003 (April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003) and have returned to the same jurisdiction's correctional services system within two years of release.

Nearly one in three (31%) offenders released from correctional services in 2002/2003 among the reporting jurisdictions returned to correctional services within two years of their release. The highest rate of re-involvement was found in Saskatchewan (36%), followed by New Brunswick (31%), Nova Scotia (29%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (18%). Overall, re-involvement rates were higher for men (32%) compared to women (23%) in all jurisdictions. The proportion of women re-involved ranged from a low of 12% in Newfoundland and Labrador to a high of 29% in Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal people were more likely to have returned to correctional supervision in the two-year period following release in 2002/2003 compared to non-Aboriginal people in all jurisdictions where data were available.² Almost half of all Aboriginal adults were re-involved in correctional services within two years following release (45%) compared to less than one-third of non-Aboriginal adults in the same time period (29%). Re-involvement rates for Aboriginal people were highest in Nova Scotia (47%), closely followed by Saskatchewan (45%), while 40% of Aboriginal people released from correctional supervision in New Brunswick returned within two years.

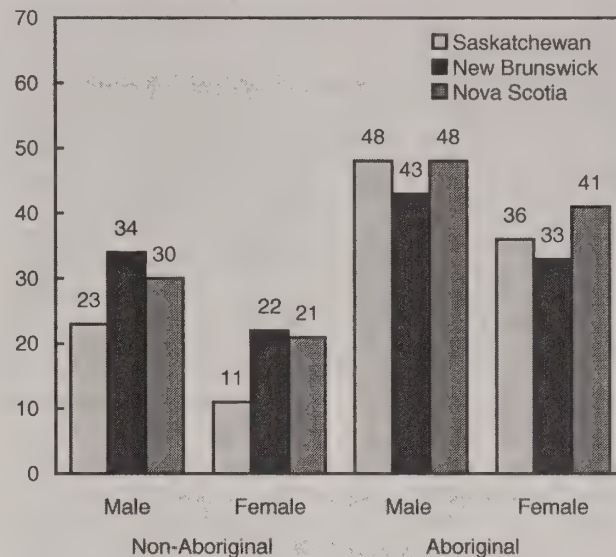
While women had lower re-involvement rates compared to males, the rate at which Aboriginal women returned to correctional supervision was substantially higher than both the rate for both non-Aboriginal women and men. Overall, nearly half of all Aboriginal men (47%) returned to correctional supervision within two years following release compared to 36% for Aboriginal women. The rate of return for non-Aboriginal men was 30% while approximately 20% of non-Aboriginal women returned to correctional supervision.

Aboriginal women had higher re-involvement rates compared to both non-Aboriginal women and non-Aboriginal men in all jurisdictions except for New Brunswick where the rates of return for non-Aboriginal men (34%) and Aboriginal women (33%) were roughly the same (Figure 3). The large discrepancy between the rates of re-involvement for Aboriginal women compared to non-Aboriginal women was highest in Saskatchewan where the re-involvement rate for Aboriginal women (36%) was more than 3 times the rate for non-Aboriginal women (11%), and substantially higher than that for non-Aboriginal men (23%). Similarly, the re-involvement rate for Aboriginal women in Nova Scotia (41%) was closer to the rate for Aboriginal men (48%),

Figure 3

Aboriginal men and women have highest rates of re-involvement in correctional services within two years following release, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, 2004/2005

% re-involved within 2 years



Note: Excludes cases where the Aboriginal Identity or Sex was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

and nearly twice the rate for non-Aboriginal women (21%). The re-involvement rate for Aboriginal men was more than twice the rate for non-Aboriginal men in Saskatchewan (48% versus 23%) and was also significantly higher in Nova Scotia (48% versus 30%) and New Brunswick (42% versus 34%).

1. For more information on the design, methodologies and benefits of fixed follow-up as a method for examining outcome indicators such as re-involvement in correctional services, or for other information on the measurement of recidivism, see Johnson, S. 2005. *Returning to Correctional Services after release: A profile of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in Saskatchewan Corrections from 1999/2000 to 2003/2004*. Cat. no. 85-002-XPE, vol. 25, no. 2. Ottawa, Statistics Canada.
2. Re-involvement rates by Aboriginal Identity in Newfoundland and Labrador have been excluded from the analysis due to missing data for Aboriginal Identity.

Note: Follow-up analyses exclude releases of adults where remand, bail supervision and/or some types of temporary detention were the only types of correctional service release the individual experienced during the release period (April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003). Analyses also exclude cases where Aboriginal Identity and/or Sex is unknown.

have both declined during the past ten years. Admissions to provincial parole declined by 68% since 1995/1996 while federal community releases decreased by 2% during the same time period, largely driven by a decline in the number of admissions to federal parole (-78%) although offset slightly by an 11% increase in statutory releases since 1995/1996.

Almost half of probation admissions were for violent offences

Overall, admissions to probation were more often related to a violent offence than other offences (Table 5). Nearly half of all admissions to probation were for violent offences (45%),

followed by property offences (27%) and other *Criminal Code* violations (17%).⁹ Violent offences represented the largest proportion of admissions to probation in 2004/2005 in all jurisdictions except Quebec and Alberta, where property offences accounted for a slightly larger proportion of admissions. Probation admissions for a violent offence were most prevalent in Manitoba (56%), followed by Nunavut (53%) while in Quebec, less than one-third (31%) of probation admissions were related to a violent offence (Table 5).

Conditional sentence admissions largely for non-violent offences

More than one-quarter (28%) of conditional sentence admissions among jurisdictions where data were available were for a violent offence.¹⁰ In these jurisdictions, conditional sentence admissions were most often related to property offences (34%), while other *Criminal Code* violations accounted for 20% of admissions and 15% were for federal statute violations and drug offences. Less than 2% of all conditional sentence admissions were for impaired driving offences.

Among the jurisdictions where data were available, there was some variation in the types of offences for which an offender was admitted to a conditional sentence. While admissions to conditional sentence for a property offence were most common in all jurisdictions, they were the most prevalent in Newfoundland and Labrador (38%) compared to the other jurisdictions, notably Nova Scotia (29%). Admissions to conditional sentences for violent offences were more prevalent in Nova Scotia (30%), New Brunswick (31%) and Saskatchewan (32%) while admissions for violent offences were less common in Newfoundland and Labrador (21%), and Alberta (22%). Further, while 16% of conditional sentence admissions were related to federal statute violations such as drug offences overall, more than 26% of conditional sentence admissions in Alberta were related to federal statute violations, the highest proportion among the jurisdictions. (Table 6)

Majority of probation admissions for terms greater than one year

In 2004/2005, more than 8 in 10 probation admissions were for terms greater than 12 months in length (84%). Overall, 48% of all probation admissions were for terms between 12 months and 18 months in length and approximately 36% were for 18 months or more in length. Approximately 14% of probation terms were for 6 to 12 months while probation terms of less than 6 months accounted for 3% of probation admissions.

Although there has been some fluctuation over time, probation lengths of more than 12 months and less than 18 months increased from 44% of all probation terms in 2000/2001 to 48% in 2004/2005. The proportion of admissions for probation terms greater than 18 months decreased slightly from 39% in 2000/2001 to 36% in 2004/2005, while admissions for shorter-term probation orders between 6 and 12 months remained relatively stable during this time period.

Roughly 6 in 10 conditional sentence orders shorter than 12 months¹¹

One-third of conditional sentence admissions were for terms between 6 and 12 months in length (32%) while roughly three in ten were for terms of less than six months (29%). One in five (20%) of all conditional sentence admissions were for terms of 12 to 18 months in length while a remaining 18% of conditional sentence admissions were for a term greater than 18 months.

Among the jurisdictions where data were available, there was substantial variation in conditional sentence order lengths. In Newfoundland and Labrador, 41% of admissions for conditional sentences were for terms of less than 3 months. In contrast, approximately 24% of conditional sentences in New Brunswick and 21% of those in Nova Scotia were for terms of the same length. Terms of less than 3 months were substantially less common in Alberta (3% of all admissions) and in Saskatchewan (2%) (Figure 4).

Conditional sentence lengths were typically longer in Saskatchewan and Alberta compared to other jurisdictions where data were available. Nearly half of all conditional sentences in Saskatchewan (44%) were for terms between 6 and 12 months in length, while 21% were for terms between 12 and 18 months and 15% were for 18 months or greater. In Alberta, conditional sentences were generally for terms greater than 6 months. Terms between 6 and 12 months (29%), 12 to 18 months (28%) and more than 18 months in length (31%) each accounted for roughly one-third of all conditional sentence admissions in Alberta. (Table 6)

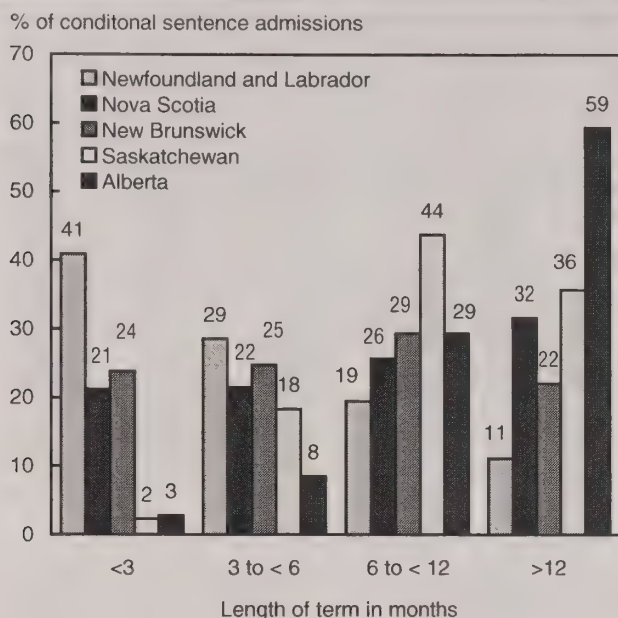
Conditional sentences for drug offences receive longest supervision orders¹²

Overall, among the jurisdictions where data were available, conditional sentences for drug offences attracted the longest conditional sentence orders while the shortest orders were imposed on offenders convicted of other *Criminal Code* offences, including offences against the administration of justice.¹³ More than one-third (36%) of all conditional sentence admissions for drug offences carried a conditional sentence term of 18 months or greater, roughly twice the proportion of those admitted for a violent offence (18%) or property offence

9. Other *Criminal Code* incidents involve the remaining *Criminal Code* offences not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences), for example, mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.
10. Data are from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) and include Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta data only.
11. Data are from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) and include Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta data only.
12. Data are from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) and include Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta data only.
13. Other *Criminal Code* incidents include the remaining *Criminal Code* offences not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences), for example, mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.

Figure 4

Length of conditional sentences generally longer in Western provinces than in Eastern provinces, 2004/2005



Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

(15%). Alternatively, only 4% of admissions for drug offences were for terms of less than 3 months, while 12% of violent offences and 11% of property offences were for terms of the same length. Shorter conditional sentence orders of less than 3 months were most common for those with other *Criminal Code* offences (19%). Overall, nearly two-thirds of violent offences (63%) and property offences (64%) were for terms less than 12 months while roughly the same proportion of drug offences were for terms greater than 12 months (64%) (Table 6).

Among the jurisdictions, there was considerable variation in the length of conditional sentence orders imposed on offenders (Table 6). Conditional sentences for crimes of violence attracted the shortest orders in the three reporting Maritime Provinces. In Newfoundland and Labrador, 42% of all conditional sentence admissions for a violent offence were for less than 3 months, compared to 27% in New Brunswick and 22% in Nova Scotia. In contrast, only 3% of conditional sentences for a violent offence in Alberta and 2% in Saskatchewan were for terms less than 3 months. In Alberta, conditional sentence lengths of 6 to 12 months (27%), 12 to 18 months (28%) and 18 months or more (34%) each accounted for approximately one-third of all admissions for a violent offence. In Saskatchewan, nearly half of admissions for a violent offence were for terms of 6 to 12 months (46%) while 19% were for terms between 12 and 18 months and 17% were for 18 months or more (Table 6).

Text box 4

Understanding conditional sentences

Given the nature of the differences between probation and a conditional sentence, it is expected that the length of terms under supervision will also differ. Conditional sentences are intended to model a term of imprisonment in terms of the sentencing principles used to guide how the sanction is used, as well as the length of sentence issued by the court. Having determined that the appropriate range of sentence is a term of imprisonment of less than two years, the judge then considers whether it is appropriate for the offender to serve his or her sentence in the community. Unlike probation, which is primarily intended as a rehabilitative sentencing tool, a conditional sentence is intended to address both punitive and rehabilitative objectives. In addition, conditional sentences generally include punitive conditions that restrict the offender's liberty. Conditions such as house arrest or strict curfews are intended to be the norm and not the exception. Further, should an offender violate a condition of a conditional sentence, he or she could serve the remainder of the conditional sentence in custody while this is not the case for probation orders. As a result of the more punitive nature of a conditional sentence, and its intended structure to closely follow a term of imprisonment, it is more likely that a conditional sentence order length will be shorter in length compared to a probation order.

Conditional sentences for drug offences resulted in long orders in many jurisdictions. Approximately 78% of conditional sentences for drug offences in Alberta, 56% in Nova Scotia and 67% in Saskatchewan led to a sentence length of 12 months or more. In contrast, a substantial but smaller proportion of drug offences in Newfoundland and Labrador (28%) and New Brunswick (37%) were for terms of the same length (Table 6).

Characteristics of offenders admitted to correctional services

In 2004/2005, women accounted for 5% of federal admissions to custody, 10% of provincial/territorial sentenced admissions and 11% of remand admissions. Among the provinces and territories in 2004/2005, there was substantial variation in the proportion of women admitted to sentenced custody (Text table 8). These overall proportions have remained relatively stable since 2000/2001.

Typically, females account for larger proportions of offenders serving probation and conditional sentences than sentenced custody. In 2004/2005, females accounted for 17% of probation intakes, with their representation ranging from 13% in Quebec to 20% in Saskatchewan and the Yukon. Similarly, 17% of those serving a conditional sentence were female, with substantial variation in their representation among the provinces and territories, ranging from 9% in Nunavut to 23% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Aboriginal people represent more than one in five admissions to correctional services

In 2004/2005, Aboriginal people accounted for 22% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 17% of admissions to federal custody, 17% of admissions to remand,

17% of probation admissions and 19% of admissions to conditional sentence (Text table 8). Overall, the representation of Aboriginal people among sentenced custody admissions has increased by 2 percentage points since 2000/2001, from 20% to 22%.¹⁴ The proportions of admissions to probation, conditional sentence and remanded custody represented by Aboriginal people have remained relatively stable in recent years.

Aboriginal people had higher levels of representation in sentenced custody compared to their representation in the Canadian adult population (3%). Among the provinces/territories, this was most notable in Alberta (38% versus 4%), Ontario (9% versus 1%), Saskatchewan (77% versus 10%), Manitoba (70% versus 11%), and British Columbia (20% versus 4%) (Text table 8). In addition, while the proportion of sentenced admissions to custody represented by Aboriginal people has remained relatively stable in most jurisdictions between 2000/2001 and 2004/2005, some jurisdictions reported increases, the largest of which was reported in Manitoba (64% to 70%).

Aboriginal women represent substantial share of a female admissions

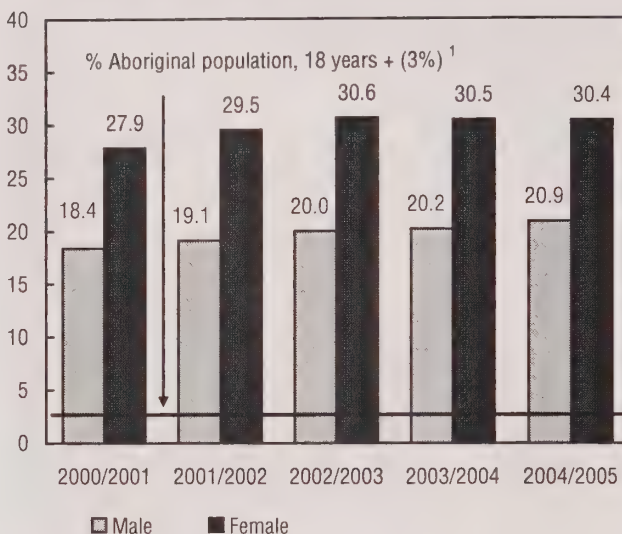
Aboriginal women represent a substantial proportion of all women admitted to custody. In 2004/2005, close to one-third of all women admitted to sentenced custody (30%) and almost one-quarter of those admitted to remand (23%)

14. To allow for comparisons over time, data from Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded.

Figure 5

Aboriginal women represent a large proportion of female admissions to sentenced custody, Canada, 2000/2001 to 2004/2005

% of Aboriginal admissions by sex



1. Aboriginal population based on Census data for those jurisdictions with the ability to report sentenced custody admissions between 2000/2001 to 2004/2005.

Note: To allow year-over-year comparisons, data from New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the totals due to missing data for some years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey (ACS); Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS); 2001 Census.

Text table 8

Characteristics of adult offenders admitted to correctional services, 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Sentenced custody			Remand			Probation			Conditional sentence			Total adult population 2001
	Female (%)	Aboriginal (%)	Median age ¹	Female (%)	Aboriginal (%)	Median age ¹	Female (%)	Aboriginal (%)	Median age ¹	Female (%)	Aboriginal (%)	Median age ¹	Aboriginal (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador	4	13	30	5	14	28	16	..	32	23	..	32	3
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nova Scotia	8	7	31	10	7	30	17	5	32	15	6	32	2
New Brunswick	9	7	31	10	10	30	17	7	30	17	6	31	2
Quebec	11	2	37	9	4	33	13	7	32	12	6	34	1
Ontario	10	9	33	12	8	31	18	7	32	21	9	33	1
Manitoba	8	70	29	11	64	28	17	53	29	16	48	28	11
Saskatchewan	11	77	30	8	75	28	20	66	28	16	72	30	10
Alberta	13	38	31	15	27	29	18	22	30	22	16	30	4
British Columbia	9	20	32	13	20	31	17	20	31	16	18	33	4
Yukon	6	74	29	9	73	29	20	60	33	17	83	33	20
Northwest Territories	5	85	32	5	88	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Nunavut	0	97	..	0	96	..	14	95	..	9	95	..	78
Provincial/territorial total	10	22	...	11	17	...	17	17	...	17	19	...	...
Federal total	5	17	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	10	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

.. not available for specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero.

1. The median age at admission is the age where, if all the people are ordered by age, half of the people are younger and half are older.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey; Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Census.

Text box 5

Characteristics of persons involved in adult correctional services, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, 2004/2005

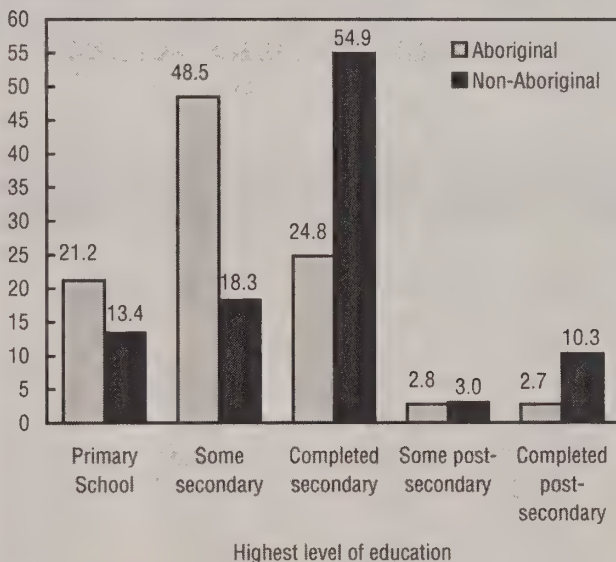
In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan in 2004/2005, the majority of offenders involved in correctional services were single (57%).¹ Nearly one-quarter of all adults involved in correctional services was in a common-law relationship (22%) and 10% were married. A smaller proportion of Aboriginal people were married (7%) compared to non-Aboriginal people (11%) while approximately 30% of Aboriginal people involved in correctional services were in a common-law relationship, nearly twice the proportion for non-Aboriginal people (17%) (Table 7).

Compared to the general Canadian adult population, the population in correctional services has a relatively low level of education. For example, roughly 35% of the general population in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan aged 25 years and older had less than a high school diploma.² In the corrections population within these jurisdictions, nearly half of all adults aged 25 and older had not completed high school

Figure 6

Non-Aboriginal adults obtained a higher level of education compared to Aboriginal adults involved in correctional services, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, 2004/2005¹

Percentage of adults, 25 years+



1. Refers to the most recent status of the most recent involvement in correctional services, for adults aged 25 years and over.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS).

(46%). The highest level of education obtained by more than one in six adults over 25 years of age in correctional services was primary school (16%), 7% of which had not completed primary school. Low education attainment was more prevalent among Aboriginal adults compared to non-Aboriginal adults under correctional supervision. More than double the proportion of non-Aboriginal adults in corrections had completed high school or a higher level education compared to Aboriginal adults (68% versus 30%). (Table 7; Figure 6).

Approximately 4 in 10 adults involved in corrections in the three reporting jurisdictions were employed as of their most recent admission to correctional services in 2004/2005 (42%). Among Aboriginal people, 36% were employed compared to 45% of non-Aboriginal people. For all adults, the likelihood of being employed was highest among adults admitted to conditional sentence (46%) and lowest among adults admitted to sentenced custody (36%).

When an individual is involved in correctional services, risk and needs assessment tools are often used to determine treatment while under correctional supervision as well as to assess the risk of future offending. The ICSS currently collects data on offender needs in Saskatchewan only. Data are collected for assessed offenders on six needs: attitude, criminal peers and companions (social interaction), drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse), employment, family/marital relationships (marital/family) and emotional stability of the individual (personal/emotional).³ Needs are presented when the need has been rated as a medium or high level as of their most recent assessment.⁴

In 2004/2005, nearly 9 out of 10 individuals in Saskatchewan correctional services were identified as having a medium or high level need for substance abuse treatment (87%). Attitude (75%) and social interaction (75%) were also indicated as needs for the majority of individuals. Other needs that were identified among adults involved in correctional services in Saskatchewan were employment (58%), family/marital (56%) and personal/emotional (15%) needs.

For all types of criminogenic needs, a larger proportion of Aboriginal people compared to non-Aboriginal people were assessed as having a medium or high need in all six categories, except for personal/emotional, where non-Aboriginal people were assessed with a higher need in this area (18% versus 14%). The largest discrepancies among needs that were identified for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons were in the areas of substance abuse (93% versus 75%), social interaction (82% versus 61%), and employment (67% versus 39%).

Approximately 9% of all involvements in Saskatchewan where a needs assessment was performed indicated that one need or no needs were identified. The proportion of non-Aboriginal people identified as having one or zero criminogenic needs (18%) was more than 4 times the proportion for Aboriginal people (4%). Twice the proportion of Aboriginal people (37%) was identified as having five or six needs compared to non-Aboriginal people (18%).

1. Analysis is based on the most recent admission of 15,322 individuals involved in correctional services in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, excluding 559 persons whose Aboriginal identity was unknown. Proportions are presented only for all individuals where characteristics are known and reported (see Table 7)

2. Census of Canada, 2001

3. See 'Definitions for information of these needs. Includes only those cases where in Saskatchewan where needs assessments were performed

4. Excludes cases where the Aboriginal identity was not known (n = a range of 4,959 - 4,967 depending on the need). Minimum number of needs is 0; maximum number of needs is 6.

were Aboriginal. In contrast, although still representing a large proportion of admissions, a smaller proportion of male admissions were Aboriginal. Approximately one-in-five males

sentenced to custody (21%) and remand (17%) were Aboriginal (Figure 5).

Large proportions of female admissions represented by Aboriginal women were more commonly found in the Western provinces. The highest proportional share was found in Saskatchewan, where close to 9 in 10 (87%) female admissions were Aboriginal. In Manitoba and the Yukon, 83% of female admissions were Aboriginal, followed by Alberta (54%) and British Columbia (29%). While Aboriginal males also represented a large proportion of male sentenced admissions in each of these provinces/territories, their proportional share was smaller compared to that for Aboriginal women. Approximately 35% of male admissions to sentenced custody in Alberta, 69% in Manitoba and 73% in the Yukon were Aboriginal. Aboriginal men represented the largest proportion of male admissions to sentenced custody in Nunavut (97%), followed by Northwest Territories (84%) and Saskatchewan (76%).

Since 2000/2001, the proportion of sentenced admissions represented by Aboriginal people has increased for both males and females (Figure 5), while remand figures have remained relatively stable.

Adult correctional service operational expenditures

In 2004/2005, adult correctional service expenditures totalled \$2.8 billion, up 2% from 2003/2004.¹⁵ Slightly more than half of all correctional service expenditures in 2004/2005 were in the federal system (54%) while the remaining 46% were in the provincial and territorial systems. Overall, custodial services represented the largest share of expenditures in

both the federal (65%) and provincial/territorial systems (78%). Community supervision services accounted for a larger proportion of correctional services in the provincial/territorial system (17%) compared to the federal system (11%) while expenditures for headquarters and central services were more than 4 times higher in the federal system (22%) compared to the provincial/territorial system (5%) (Table 8).

Federal inmates are typically more costly to house than inmates in the provincial/territorial system. On average, \$259.05 per day was spent on a federal inmate compared to \$141.78 per day at the provincial/territorial level in 2004/2005. This difference in inmate costs between the federal and provincial/territorial system is the result of a number of factors, including the higher levels of security required in the federal system as well as the higher costs of incarceration associated with federally sentenced female offenders (Johnson, 2004). In addition, there are an increased number of treatment programs available to offenders serving longer sentences associated with federal custody.¹⁶

15. Trends in expenditures are examined in constant dollars to take inflation into account. To allow for year to year comparison, all data from Prince Edward Island have been excluded due to missing data.
16. One additional difference between the provincial/territorial and federal average inmate costs is the base used to calculate average inmate cost. The federal average daily inmate cost includes those costs associated with operation of the institutions, including salaries, while in the provinces/territories, the average daily inmate cost is based on provincial/territorial operating expenditures for custodial services, excluding costs associated with the operation of institutions such as salaries. Capital expenditures are excluded in both the provincial/territorial and federal data and calculations of average inmate cost.

Text table 9

Operating expenditures and average daily cost of persons in provincial/territorial custody, constant 1992/1993 dollars, 1995/1996 to 2004/2005^{1,2}

	Current dollars		Constant 1992/1993 dollars		
	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate cost	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate cost	% change
	\$'000	\$	\$'000	\$	
1995/1996	805,317	112.13	773,874	107.71	...
1996/1997	825,386	116.35	779,618	109.87	2.0
1997/1998	848,837 ^r	123.29	791,050	114.90	4.6
1998/1999 ³	848,547	121.49	783,454	112.18	...
1999/2000	883,132 ^r	130.07	797,856	117.49	4.7
2000/2001	911,564 ^r	133.31	801,727	117.25	-0.2
2001/2002	938,559 ^r	133.96 ^r	807,016	115.18	-1.8
2002/2003	1,022,477 ^r	142.88 ^r	854,200	119.36	3.6
2003/2004	1,000,838	141.74	820,359	116.18	-2.7
2004/2005	1,021,620	141.78	819,920	116.21	0.5
% change from 2000/2001	...	...	2.3	-0.9	...

... not applicable
r revised

1. Daily inmate cost is calculated by dividing the operational expenditures by the 'total days stayed'. 'Total days stayed' is based on average daily (actual-in) counts of inmates multiplied by the number of days in the year. Custodial Services operating costs constitute total operating expenditures for government facilities as well as purchased services related to institutional activities.

2. Due to missing data for some years, data from Prince Edward Island has been excluded for all years.

3. Prior to 1998/1999, the institutional operating costs excluded purchased services. Because of this change in methodology, the percentage change in average daily inmate cost between 1997/1998 and 1998/1999 has not been calculated.

Note: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Text box 6

Correctional facilities

In 2004/2005, there were 190 correctional facilities across Canada, of which 76 were under federal jurisdiction and 114 were under provincial/territorial jurisdiction. In the federal system in 2004/2005, 18 federal community correctional centres were in operation at year end with a capacity of 513 spaces along with 58 federal institutions with 14,263 spaces. This represented approximately 38% of the total institutional capacity in Canada. Since 2000/2001, total federal custodial capacity has increased by 4%.

A total operational capacity of 23,232 spaces was reported in 114 provincial and territorial facilities, of which 98 were secure institutions and the remaining 16 were minimum (open) security institutions in 2004/2005. Since 2000/2001, the capacity of the provincial/territorial custodial correctional system has increased by 4%, largely driven by capacity increases in Ontario (+12%) and Quebec (+11%).¹ Many jurisdictions reported decreases in the total institutional capacity, the largest of which were reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (-17%) and British Columbia (-12%). During the same time period between 2000/2001 and 2004/2005, the average count of adults in provincial/territorial custody increased by 6%, which suggests that in many jurisdictions, the number of incarcerated adults has reached the levels of institutional capacity in recent years.

1. The method for determining bed space capacity in some jurisdictions has changed and therefore, comparison to years prior to 2000/2001 should be made with caution.

In 2004/2005, total institutional operating expenditures in the provincial/territorial system as well as the average constant dollar inmate cost remained stable from the previous year (Text table 9). Since 2000/2001, the provincial/territorial average daily inmate cost has remained stable in spite of a small increase in overall custodial operating expenditures (+2%) during the same time period. In the federal system, institutional operating costs increased by 2% since 2003/2004 and the average daily federal inmate cost increased by 3%.

Cost of providing community supervision services increasing at a higher rate than custodial services

While the total operating expenditures of custodial services are typically higher than those of community supervision, the cost of providing community supervision services has increased at a higher rate than custodial services (Text table 10). In 2004/2005, the operating expenditures for provincial/territorial custodial services were slightly more than \$1 billion, compared to about \$222 million for provincial/territorial community supervision (Table 8). However, while operating expenditures in provincial/territorial custody increased by 2% since 2000/2001, expenditures for community supervision increased by 12% during the same time period. Over the past decade since 1995/1996, operating expenditures in the community have increased by nearly half (47%) (Text table 10). One explanation for this increase could be the increase in the population of community supervision offenders with a conditional sentence who require more intensive and costly supervision.

Text table 10

Operating expenditures for provincial/territorial community services, constant 1992/1993 dollars, 1995/1996 to 2004/2005¹

	Operating expenditures		
	Current dollars	Constant 1992/93 dollars	
	\$'000	\$'000	% change
1995/1996	124,978	120,056	...
1996/1997	128,945	121,761	1.4
1997/1998	155,712	145,118	19.2
1998/1999	159,068 ^r	146,877	1.2
1999/2000	167,158 ^r	151,001	2.8
2000/2001	178,924 ^r	157,365 ^r	4.2
2001/2002	192,067 ^r	165,148 ^r	4.9
2002/2003	202,787 ^r	169,413 ^r	2.6
2003/2004	208,675 ^r	171,045 ^r	1.0
2004/2005	219,396	176,081	2.9
% change from 2000/2001	...	...	11.9
% change from 1995/1996	...	...	46.7

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Due to missing data for some years, data from Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded for all years. In 2004/2005, the total operating expenditures for provincial/territorial community services including all available data was \$222,203 (expressed in thousands).

Note: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Definitions

Adults: Persons aged 18 years of age or older at the time of the offence.

Community supervision: Supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence and community release (parole or statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: Disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order. The court may also direct the offender to comply with conditions of a probation order in addition to a fine or a sentence of custody.

Conditional sentence: Disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Community release: Supervision of offenders on day parole, full parole, statutory release and long term supervision orders. The National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole, to terminate or revoke statutory release, detain certain offenders past their statutory release date, and grant unescorted temporary absences.

Parole: Programs of conditional release from custody into the community under the authority of parole boards.

Provincial parole: Programs of conditional release managed by administrative tribunals in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia that have the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole in their jurisdiction.

Day parole: Release of an offender into the community granted by the National Parole Board or a provincial parole board to prepare the offender for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require the offender to return to a penitentiary, a community-based residential facility or a provincial correctional facility each night. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for day parole six months prior to their full parole eligibility date or one-sixth of their sentence for cases that meet accelerated parole review criteria.

Full parole: Release of an offender into the community to serve part of their prison sentence. Offenders are under supervision by a parole officer and are required to abide by conditions designed to reduce the risk of re-offending and to foster re-integration into the community. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for parole after serving one third of their sentence or seven years after admission, whichever is less.

Statutory release: Release of federal offenders into the community after serving two thirds of their sentence, unless they are detained by the National Parole Board or they waive statutory release.

Long-term supervision order: Disposition that came into effect in Canada on August 1, 1997, in which the court can order that the offender be supervised in the community for a period not exceeding 10 years after having served a custody sentence of two years or more.

Custodial supervision/custody: Detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced custody: Detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.

Non-sentenced custody:

1) Remand: Court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.

2) Temporary detention: Incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Fixed-follow up: A method to assess re-involvement in the correctional system by examining the presence or absence of an event (e.g., a re-involvement in correctional services) for a fixed period of time following forward from the date of release from correctional involvement until some fixed period of time after release.

Incarceration rate: The average daily number of adults in sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detentions for every 100,000 adults in Canada.

Most serious offence:

Most serious offence (MSO) – This measure is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which classifies incidents, according to the most serious offence in the incident. The Adult Correctional Services Survey uses the same rule in determining the most serious offence for which an offender is sentenced. For example, if an offender is sentenced with more than one offence, the most serious offence rule states that where several offences occur in one incident, only the most serious offence, based on penalties in the *Criminal Code of Canada*, is recorded.

In addition, the seriousness index, used by respondents from the ICSS to tabulate most serious offences (MSO), has been updated and no longer automatically ranks violent offences as more serious than non-violent offences. Accordingly, comparison to previous years and previous publications should be made with caution because, for example, some admissions which would have formerly been classified as 'violent' may now be classified as non-violent.

Most serious disposition (MSD) – If an offender receives more than one conviction, the offence with the longest sentence given to the offender is the one recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Multiple charge (MC) – If an offender is charged with, and found guilty of more than one offence, all charges will be recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Needs:

Attitude - degree to which an individual accepts responsibility for the offence and shows a willingness to change

Peers/companions (social interaction) - level of problems associated with some or all of the individual's peers

Drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse) - degree to which use of alcohol and/or drugs is associated with problems

Employment - employment status (employed vs. unemployed) and employment history

Family/marital relationships (marital/family) - presence or absence of serious problems in relationships

Emotional stability of offender (personal/emotional) - whether or not emotional instability exists and the degree to which this related to serious problems.

Methodology

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on adult correctional services in Canada through four surveys: the Key Indicator Report (KIR), the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey, the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) which is currently being implemented and is intended to eventually replace the Adult Correctional Services Survey. Currently data from ICSS are presented in this *Juristat* for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) for both custody and community admissions and release data, as well as community admissions and releases for Alberta. Data relating to operating expenditures and personnel are collected through the REP while the ACS Survey collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on adult offenders (18 years and over) under some form of provincial, territorial or federal correctional supervision. The ICSS collects person-level descriptive data and characteristics information on adult offenders in participating jurisdictions. The data are provided by the various provincial, territorial and federal ministries, departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. As a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. These surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis.

Given that most of the data are reported in aggregate form, there are limits to the types of analyses or cross-tabulations that can be performed. For example, data such as median age of offenders and median sentence length for each province cannot be combined to calculate a national median for all offenders.

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Table 1

Adult population estimates, by province and territory as at July 1st, 1995 to 2004

Province/territory	Sex	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
thousands											
Newfoundland and Labrador	Total	424.8	422.6	419.5	414.1	412.1	410.7	409.0	410.2	412.3	413.8
	Male	210.1	208.5	206.6	203.3	201.8	200.6	199.2	199.7	200.7	201.3
	Female	214.8	214.1	212.8	210.8	210.3	210.1	209.8	210.6	211.7	212.5
Prince Edward Island	Total	99.2	100.4	101.3	101.5	102.4	103.1	103.8	104.6	105.6	106.8
	Male	48.2	48.8	49.1	49.1	49.4	49.6	49.9	50.2	50.7	51.3
	Female	51.0	51.6	52.2	52.4	52.9	53.4	53.9	54.4	54.9	55.5
Nova Scotia	Total	707.2	711.3	715.1	717.9	722.7	725.6	727.8	733.8	739.2	743.9
	Male	342.9	344.5	346.1	347.3	349.5	350.7	351.7	355.3	357.8	360.2
	Female	364.3	366.9	369.0	370.5	373.2	374.8	376.0	378.5	381.4	383.7
New Brunswick	Total	571.4	575.0	578.0	579.3	582.1	584.9	587.6	591.2	594.9	598.4
	Male	280.1	282.0	283.1	283.5	284.6	285.9	287.0	288.6	290.4	292.0
	Female	291.3	293.0	294.8	295.8	297.5	299.0	300.6	302.6	304.6	306.3
Quebec	Total	5,529.3	5,563.8	5,610.0	5,653.9	5,706.4	5,760.3	5,816.4	5,878.5	5,938.9	5,999.5
	Male	2,689.2	2,706.9	2,730.9	2,753.4	2,780.6	2,808.2	2,837.0	2,869.2	2,900.9	2,931.5
	Female	2,840.0	2,856.9	2,879.0	2,900.5	2,925.9	2,952.1	2,979.5	3,009.3	3,038.1	3,068.0
Ontario	Total	8,297.3	8,395.5	8,518.8	8,635.4	8,761.9	8,918.7	9,104.0	9,298.3	9,464.3	9,616.0
	Male	4,035.3	4,080.1	4,145.1	4,206.0	4,272.8	4,354.5	4,450.8	4,546.8	4,627.9	4,700.6
	Female	4,262.0	4,315.4	4,373.7	4,429.4	4,489.1	4,564.3	4,653.2	4,751.5	4,836.4	4,915.4
Manitoba	Total	835.2	839.9	843.1	846.2	851.8	857.6	862.9	869.3	877.1	886.7
	Male	409.0	411.4	413.0	414.6	417.6	420.5	423.4	426.6	430.5	435.5
	Female	426.2	428.5	430.1	431.5	434.2	437.1	439.6	442.7	446.6	451.2
Saskatchewan	Total	732.5	738.5	741.0	743.5	745.1	743.4	741.9	742.9	746.4	751.4
	Male	360.1	363.2	364.4	365.6	366.2	365.4	364.4	364.8	366.6	369.1
	Female	372.3	375.3	376.5	377.9	378.8	378.1	377.5	378.1	379.8	382.2
Alberta	Total	1,992.4	2,029.8	2,078.1	2,139.0	2,190.8	2,241.4	2,293.6	2,351.5	2,396.2	2,441.8
	Male	995.5	1,014.3	1,039.4	1,071.5	1,098.6	1,124.9	1,152.2	1,182.3	1,204.0	1,226.3
	Female	996.9	1,015.5	1,038.7	1,067.5	1,092.2	1,116.5	1,141.4	1,169.2	1,192.1	1,215.5
British Columbia	Total	2,888.6	2,970.7	3,035.2	3,071.4	3,105.2	3,139.9	3,185.7	3,234.2	3,281.9	3,334.2
	Male	1,425.8	1,465.3	1,495.7	1,512.1	1,527.1	1,543.3	1,565.1	1,587.9	1,611.1	1,636.3
	Female	1,462.8	1,505.4	1,539.5	1,559.4	1,578.1	1,596.5	1,620.7	1,646.3	1,670.7	1,697.9
Yukon Territory	Total	21.8	22.6	23.0	22.6	22.5	22.4	22.4	22.6	23.1	23.7
	Male	11.3	11.7	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.5	11.7	11.9
	Female	10.5	10.9	11.1	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.2	11.4	11.8
Northwest Territories	Total	41.8	42.5	42.7	42.6	27.6	27.6	28.0	28.7	29.4	30.1
	Male	22.1	22.4	22.5	22.4	14.3	14.4	14.6	15.0	15.3	15.7
	Female	19.8	20.1	20.2	20.3	13.3	13.3	13.5	13.8	14.1	14.4
Nunavut	Total	...	...	...	...	15.3	15.7	16.2	16.7	17.0	17.4
	Male	...	...	...	...	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.7	8.8	9.0
	Female	...	...	...	...	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.5
Canada	Total	22,141.5	22,412.7	22,705.5	22,967.5	23,245.9	23,551.3	23,899.3	24,282.6	24,626.2	24,963.5
	Male	10,829.5	10,959.1	11,107.8	11,240.4	11,382.2	11,537.6	11,715.1	11,906.6	12,076.4	12,240.7
	Female	11,311.9	11,453.7	11,597.7	11,727.1	11,863.7	12,013.6	12,184.2	12,376.0	12,549.8	12,722.9

... not applicable

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Table 2

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory, 2000/2001 to 2004/2005

Province/territory	Year	Sentenced admissions		Non-sentenced admissions						Total	
				Remand ¹		Other temporary detention		Total			
		no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador ²	2000/2001	944	...	388	...	..	...	388	...	1,332	...
	2001/2002	1,235	30.8	422	8.8	93	...	515	32.7	1,750	31.4
	2002/2003	1,148 ^r	-7.0	427 ^r	1.2	100 ^r	...	527 ^r	2.3	1,675 ^r	-4.3
	2003/2004	1,174 ^r	2.3	436	2.1	103 ^r	3.0	539	2.3	1,713 ^r	2.3
	2004/2005	1,045	-11.0	460	5.5	78	-24.3	538	-0.2	1,583	-7.6
Prince Edward Island	2000/2001	586	...	176	...	..	...	176	...	762	...
	2001/2002	650	10.9	178	1.1	..	...	178	1.1	828	8.7
	2002/2003	594	-8.6	265	48.9	..	...	265	48.9	859	3.7
	2003/2004	489	-17.7	189	-28.7	..	...	189	-28.7	678	-21.1
	2004/2005	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
Nova Scotia	2000/2001	1,624	...	1,758	...	406	...	2,164	...	3,788	...
	2001/2002	1,507	-7.2	1,881	7.0	467	15.0	2,348	8.5	3,855	1.8
	2002/2003	1,550	2.9	1,949	3.6	341	-27.0	2,290	-2.5	3,840	-0.4
	2003/2004	1,513	-2.4	2,081	6.8	276	-19.1	2,357	2.9	3,870	0.8
	2004/2005	1,660	9.7	2,171	4.3	284	2.9	2,455	4.2	4,115	6.3
New Brunswick ^{2,3}	2000/2001	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	2,884	...
	2001/2002	1,555	...	1,337	...	574	...	1,911	...	3,466	20.2
	2002/2003	2,454	...	1,358	...	536	...	1,894	...	4,348	25.4
	2003/2004	2,303	-6.2	1,469	8.2	549	2.4	2,018	6.5	4,321	-0.6
	2004/2005	2,233	-3.0	1,543	5.0	593	8.0	2,136	5.8	4,369	1.1
Quebec	2000/2001	14,951	...	26,063	...	2,897	...	28,960	...	43,911	...
	2001/2002	14,372	-3.9	27,341	4.9	2,984	3.0	30,325	4.7	44,697	1.8
	2002/2003	13,423	-6.6	26,588	-2.8	3,069	2.8	29,657	-2.2	43,080	-3.6
	2003/2004	11,933	-11.1	25,761	-3.1	2,849	-7.2	28,610	-3.5	40,543	-5.9
	2004/2005	9,850	-17.5	25,992	0.9	3,076	8.0	29,068	1.6	38,918	-4.0
Ontario	2000/2001	30,999	...	52,179	...	3,239	...	55,418	...	86,417	...
	2001/2002	31,980	3.2	56,370	8.0	8,257	154.9	64,627	16.6	96,607	11.8
	2002/2003	33,050	3.3	58,470	3.7	11,631	40.9	70,101	8.5	103,151	6.8
	2003/2004	31,710	-4.1	57,854	-1.1	13,291	14.3	71,145	1.5	102,855	-0.3
	2004/2005	30,970	-2.3	58,493	1.1	13,341	0.4	71,834	1.0	102,804	-0.0
Manitoba	2000/2001	2,901	...	6,955	...	4,924	...	11,879	...	14,780	...
	2001/2002	3,025	4.3	7,625	9.6	5,554	12.8	13,179	10.9	16,204	9.6
	2002/2003	3,316	9.6	8,615	13.0	6,083	9.5	14,698	11.5	18,014	11.2
	2003/2004	3,139	-5.3	8,273	-4.0	7,349	20.8	15,622	6.3	18,761	4.1
	2004/2005	3,508	11.8	8,390	1.4	6,451	-12.2	14,841	-5.0	18,349	-2.2
Saskatchewan ²	2000/2001	3,219	...	9,548	...	222	...	9,770	...	12,989	...
	2001/2002	3,345	3.9	4,982	-47.8	171	-23.0	5,153	-47.3	8,498	-34.6
	2002/2003	3,536 ^r	5.7	5,518 ^r	10.8	190	11.1	5,708	10.8	9,244 ^r	8.8
	2003/2004	3,305 ^r	-6.5	5,456 ^r	-1.1	175 ^r	-7.9	5,631 ^r	-1.3	8,936 ^r	-3.3
	2004/2005	3,462	4.8	5,370	-1.6	194	10.9	5,564	-1.2	9,026	1.0
Alberta	2000/2001	14,859	...	8,179	...	..	...	8,179	...	23,038	...
	2001/2002	15,164	2.1	8,875	8.5	..	...	8,875	8.5	24,039	4.3
	2002/2003	16,190	6.8	9,655	8.8	..	...	9,655	8.8	25,845	7.5
	2003/2004	16,255	0.4	10,037	4.0	..	...	10,037	4.0	26,292	1.7
	2004/2005	16,540	1.8	10,077	0.4	..	...	10,077	0.4	26,617	1.2
British Columbia	2000/2001	9,520	...	12,185	...	13,199	...	25,384	...	34,904	...
	2001/2002	9,263	-2.7	10,687	-12.3	13,362	1.2	24,049	-5.3	33,312	-4.6
	2002/2003	8,740	-5.6	11,507	7.7	13,030	-2.5	24,537	2.0	33,277	-0.1
	2003/2004	8,812	0.8	11,840	2.9	13,565	4.1	25,405	3.5	34,217	2.8
	2004/2005	9,074	3.0	12,542	5.9	11,693	-13.8	24,235	-4.6	33,309	-2.7

Table 2

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory, 2000/2001 to 2004/2005 (continued)

Province/territory	Year	Sentenced admissions		Non-sentenced admissions						Total	
				Remand ¹		Other temporary detention		Total			
		no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change	no.	% change
Yukon	2000/2001	294	...	302	...	13	...	315	...	609	...
	2001/2002	280	-4.8	323	7.0	24	84.6	347	10.2	627	3.0
	2002/2003	212	-24.3	327	1.2	13	-45.8	340	-2.0	552	-12.0
	2003/2004	192	-9.4	358	9.5	15	15.4	373	9.7	565	2.4
	2004/2005	188	-2.1	373	4.2	9	-40.0	382	2.4	570	0.9
Northwest Territories	2000/2001	802	...	628	...	1	...	629	...	1,431	...
	2001/2002	562	-29.9	237	-62.3	13	...	250	-60.3	812	-43.3
	2002/2003	685	21.9	268	13.1	2	-84.6	270	8.0	955	17.6
	2003/2004	616	-10.1	233	-13.1	4	100.0	237	-12.2	853	-10.7
	2004/2005	483	-21.6	238	2.1	3	-25.0	241	1.7	724	-15.1
Nunavut	2000/2001	229	...	205	...	..	...	205	...	434	...
	2001/2002	217	...	254	...	..	...	254	...	471	...
	2002/2003	240	10.6	197	-22.4	..	...	197	-22.4	437	-7.2
	2003/2004	171	-28.7	192	-2.5	..	...	192	-2.5	363	-16.9
	2004/2005	180	5.3	222	15.6	..	...	222	15.6	402	10.7
Provincial/territorial total (includes all data)	2000/2001	80,928	...	118,566	...	24,901	...	143,467	...	227,279	...
	2001/2002	83,155	2.8	120,512	1.6	31,499	26.5	152,011	6.0	235,166	3.5
	2002/2003	85,138 ^r	2.4	125,144 ^r	3.8	34,995 ^r	11.1	160,139 ^r	5.3	245,277 ^r	4.3
	2003/2004	81,612 ^r	-4.1	124,179 ^r	-0.8	38,176 ^r	9.1	162,355 ^r	1.4	243,967 ^r	-0.5
	2004/2005	79,193	-3.0	125,871	1.4	35,722	-6.4	161,593	-0.5	240,786	-1.3
Provincial/territorial total (excludes jurisdictions with missing data) ⁴	2000/2001	80,342	...	118,390	...	24,901	...	143,291	...	223,633	...
	2001/2002	80,950	0.8	118,997	0.5	30,925	24.2	149,922	4.6	230,872	3.2
	2002/2003	82,090	1.4	123,521	3.8	34,459	11.4	157,980	5.4	240,070	4.0
	2003/2004	78,820	-4.0	122,521	-0.8	37,627	9.2	160,148	1.4	238,968	-0.5
	2004/2005	76,960	-2.4	124,328	1.5	35,129	-6.6	159,457	-0.4	236,417	-1.1

... not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Figures for remand may include admissions to other temporary detention in some jurisdictions.

2. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/2002; Nova Scotia, 2002/2003; New Brunswick, 2002/2003; Saskatchewan, 2001/2002. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

3. New Brunswick data for 2000/2001 have been included only in the total due to missing data in the sub-categories.

4. To allow year-over-year comparisons, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have been excluded from all totals due to missing data.

Note: The method of calculation of admission to custody can be different from one province to another. Thus, interjurisdictional comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

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Table 3, Adult sentenced admissions to provincial, territorial and federal sentenced custody by major offence, 2004/2005

Currently

		Criminal Code									Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by-laws
		Criminal Code					Other federal statutes ²				
		Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other Criminal Code	Total	Drug offences	Other	Total	Total	
Number		%									
Federal	MSO	4,312	49	23	1	15	88	10	0 ^s	10	0 ^s

Should read

		Federal									Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by- laws
		Criminal Code					Other federal statutes ²				
		Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	Total	Drug offences	Other	Total		
		Number	%								
<i>Federal</i>	MSO	4,540	50	24	1	14	89	10	0 ^s	10	0 ^s

Table 3

Adult sentenced admissions to provincial, territorial and federal sentenced custody by major offence, 2004/2005

											Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by laws
		Criminal Code					Other federal statutes ²				
Jurisdiction	Unit count ¹		Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other Criminal code	Total	Drug offences	Other	Total	Total
		number					%				
Provincial/territorial											
Newfoundland and Labrador	MSO	1,045	24	26	11	29	90	3	6	8	2
Prince Edward Island	MSO	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	MSO	1,660	24	23	3	29	80	6	13	19	1
New Brunswick	MSO	2,233	17	24	9	26	76	7	2	8	16
Quebec	MSO	9,850	7	18	18	15	58	10	0	10	32
Ontario	MSO	30,970	29	26	5	31	91	8	1	8	1
Manitoba	MSO	3,508	59	18	6	11	94	1	5	6	0
Saskatchewan	MSO	3,462	17	24	7	43	91	2	1	3	5
Alberta	MC	52,624	7	23	3	38	70	3	1	4	26
British Columbia	MSD	9,074	13	24	2	40	79	8	8	16	5
Yukon	MSO	188	23	28	7	38	96	3	0	3	1
Northwest Territories	MSO	483	61	16	6	16	98	1	0 ^s	1	0
Nunavut	MSO	180	83	8	1	7	99	1	0	1	0
Federal	MSO	4,312	49	23	1	15	88	10	0 ^s	10	0 ^s

.. figures not available for specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between zero and the value that was rounded

1. MSO = most serious offence

MSD = most serious disposition

MC = multiple charge

Alberta classifies program commencements using a 'multiple charge' method. This means that an individual commencing a custody program for multiple charges will be counted for each distinct but separate charge.

Offence data for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan have been tabulated using a revised method of determining 'most serious offence' and, as such, comparison to previous years should be made with caution. See 'Definitions' section for more information.

2. Includes the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and other federal statutes.

Notes: Calculations for percent distribution are based on total admissions excluding those where major offence is not known.

Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 4

Conditional sentence and probation admissions 2000/2001 to 2004/2005

Province/territory		Conditional sentences	% change	Probation	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador ¹	2000/2001	319	...	1,906	...
	2001/2002	321	0.6	1,789	-6.1
	2002/2003	312	-2.8	1,736	-3.0
	2003/2004	410	31.4	1,742	0.3
	2004/2005	408	-0.5	1,700	-2.4
Prince Edward Island	2000/2001	40	...	533	...
	2001/2002	40	0.0	563	5.6
	2002/2003	37	-7.5	541	-3.9
	2003/2004	58	56.8	498	-7.9
	2004/2005	..	...	..	...
Nova Scotia ¹	2000/2001	623	...	3,653	...
	2001/2002	614	-1.4	3,547	-2.9
	2002/2003	615	0.2	2,999	-15.4
	2003/2004	615	0.0	3,057	1.9
	2004/2005	693	12.7	3,141	2.7
New Brunswick ¹	2000/2001	682	...	1,733	...
	2001/2002	667	-2.2	1,830	5.6
	2002/2003	606	-9.1	1,792	-2.1
	2003/2004	615	1.5	1,754 ^r	-2.1
	2004/2005	630	2.4	1,775	1.2
Quebec	2000/2001	4,259	...	7,704	...
	2001/2002	4,670	9.7	8,277	7.4
	2002/2003	4,941	5.8	8,280	0.0
	2003/2004	4,525	-8.4	8,645	4.4
	2004/2005	4,343	-4.0	9,263	7.1
Ontario	2000/2001	4,211	...	34,920	...
	2001/2002	4,416	4.9	38,236	9.5
	2002/2003	4,920	11.4	39,778	4.0
	2003/2004	5,212	5.9	37,407	-6.0
	2004/2005	5,332	2.3	37,198	-0.6
Manitoba ²	2000/2001	705	...	6,811	...
	2001/2002	766	8.7	5,219	-23.4
	2002/2003	798	4.2	3,501	-32.9
	2003/2004	739	-7.4	3,379	-3.5
	2004/2005	982	32.9	5,344	58.2
Saskatchewan ¹	2000/2001	1,365	...	3,457	...
	2001/2002	1,365	0.0	3,444	-0.4
	2002/2003	1,472 ^r	7.8	3,553 ^r	3.2
	2003/2004	1,520 ^r	3.3	3,452 ^r	-2.8
	2004/2005	1,459	-4.0	3,510	1.7
Alberta ¹	2000/2001	1,558	...	9,360	...
	2001/2002	1,731	11.1	9,438	0.8
	2002/2003	1,590	-8.1	8,821	-6.5
	2003/2004	1,402	-11.8	7,836	-11.2
	2004/2005	1,393	-0.6	7,829	-0.1
British Columbia	2000/2001	3,226	...	11,509	...
	2001/2002	3,712	15.1	11,067	-3.8
	2002/2003	3,545	-4.5	10,429	-5.8
	2003/2004	3,141	-11.4	9,120	-12.6
	2004/2005	3,338	6.3	9,662	5.9

Table 4

Conditional sentence and probation admissions 2000/2001 to 2004/2005 (continued)

Province/territory		Conditional sentences	% change	Probation	% change
Yukon	2000/2001	96	...	353	...
	2001/2002	104	8.3	338	-4.2
	2002/2003	99	-4.8	363	7.4
	2003/2004	96	-3.0	292	-19.6
	2004/2005	103	7.3	298	2.1
Northwest Territories	2000/2001	..	...	..	...
	2001/2002	..	...	..	...
	2002/2003	..	...	..	...
	2003/2004	..	...	..	...
	2004/2005	..	...	..	...
Nunavut	2000/2001	..	...	..	...
	2001/2002	198	...	801	...
	2002/2003	285	43.9	885	10.5
	2003/2004	328	15.1	922	4.2
	2004/2005	235	-28.4	841	-8.8
Provincial/territorial total (includes all data)	2000/2001	17,084	...	81,939	...
	2001/2002	18,604	...	84,549	...
	2002/2003	19,220^r	...	82,678^r	...
	2003/2004	18,661^r	-2.9	78,104^r	-5.5
	2004/2005	18,916	1.4	80,561	3.1
Provincial/territorial total (excludes jurisdictions with missing data)³	2000/2001	17,044	...	81,406	...
	2001/2002	18,366	7.8	83,185	2.2
	2002/2003	18,898	2.9	81,252	-2.3
	2003/2004	18,275	-3.3	76,684	-5.6
	2004/2005	18,681	2.2	79,720	4.0

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/2002; Nova Scotia, 2002/2003; New Brunswick, 2002/2003; Alberta, 2003/2004; Saskatchewan, 2001/2002. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

2. While probation admissions for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 have decreased from 2000/2001 levels, some of the decrease can be attributed to the implementation in 1999/2000 of a new information system Corrections Offender Management System (COMS).

3. To allow year-over-year comparisons, Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the totals due to missing data in some years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 5

Admissions to probation by major offence, 2000/2001 to 2004/2005

Province/territory	Year	Total probation admissions number	Criminal Code				Other federal statutes		Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by-laws
			Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other	Drug offences	Other	
						%			
Newfoundland and Labrador ¹	2000/2001	1,906	37	33	5	19	5	1	1
	2001/2002	1,789	36	28	7	21	0	7	1
	2002/2003	1,736 ^r	36	28	7	22 ^r	4 ^r	2 ^r	2
	2003/2004	1,742 ^r	34	27	7	22 ^r	4 ^r	3 ^r	3
	2004/2005	1,700	35	28	6	22	4	2	3
Prince Edward Island	2000/2001	533	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/2002	563	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/2003	541	36	26	18	18	1	0	0
	2003/2004	498	44	21	17	15	3	0	0
	2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia ¹	2000/2001	3,653	34	24	6	29	6	1	0 ^s
	2001/2002	3,547	35	23	7	28	7	1	0 ^s
	2002/2003	2,999 ^r	42 ^r	28	7	18	4	1	0 ^s
	2003/2004	3,057 ^r	43 ^r	27	8	19	3	0	0 ^s
	2004/2005	3,141	42	27	8	19	3	1	0 ^s
New Brunswick ^{1,2}	2000/2001	1,733	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/2002	1,830	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/2003	1,792	36 ^r	28	7	22	4	2	2
	2003/2004	1,754 ^r	34 ^r	27 ^r	7 ^r	22 ^r	4	3	3
	2004/2005	1,775	35	28	6	22	4	2	3
Quebec	2000/2001	7,704	30	37	4	18	11	0	0 ^s
	2001/2002	8,277	31	35	4	18	11	1	0 ^s
	2002/2003	8,280	32	34	4	19	11	0	0 ^s
	2003/2004	8,645	31	34	4	20	11	0	0 ^s
	2004/2005	9,263	31	34	4	21	10	0	1
Ontario	2000/2001	34,920	45	31	6	12	6	0 ^s	1
	2001/2002	38,236	53	23	5	12	6	0 ^s	1
	2002/2003	39,778	54	23	5	16	2	0 ^s	0 ^s
	2003/2004	37,407	53	24	4	13	5	0 ^s	0 ^s
	2004/2005	37,198	51	24	4	14	6	1	0 ^s
Manitoba ³	2000/2001	6,811	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/2002	5,219	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/2003	3,501	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2003/2004	3,379	54	21	4	19	2	0	0
	2004/2005	5,344	56	19	3	20	1	0	0
Saskatchewan ¹	2000/2001	3,457	49	25	7	14	0	5	0 ^s
	2001/2002	3,444	50	24	6	17	2	1	0 ^s
	2002/2003	3,553 ^r	42 ^r	28 ^r	7	21 ^r	2	1 ^r	0 ^s
	2003/2004	3,452 ^r	40 ^r	27 ^r	6	24 ^r	2	1	1
	2004/2005	3,510	41	28	5	22	2	0	1
Alberta ¹	2000/2001	9,360	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/2002	9,438	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/2003	8,821	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2003/2004	7,836 ^r	33	35	8	19	3	0	1
	2004/2005	7,829	34	36	8	18	3	0	1
British Columbia	2000/2001	11,509	40	32	4	14	8	0	1

Table 5

Admissions to probation by major offence, 2000/2001 to 2004/2005 (continued)

Province/territory	Year	Total probation admissions	Criminal Code				Other federal statutes		Prov./terr. statutes and municipal by-laws
			Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other	Drug offences	Other	
		number				%			
	2001/2002	11,067	40	33	3	14	8	0	1
	2002/2003	10,429	40	34	3	14	8	0	1
	2003/2004	9,120	37	34	3	18	7	0	1
	2004/2005	9,662	39	34	3	16	7	0	1
Yukon	2000/2001	353	32	21	7	33	4	0	4
	2001/2002	338	33	15	5	41	3	0	3
	2002/2003	363	50	14	7	23	5	0	1
	2003/2004	292	46	15	5	26	5	0	3
	2004/2005	298	52	16	6	21	3	1	0
Northwest Territories	2000/2001	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/2002	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut ⁴	2000/2001	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	2001/2002	801	51	22	1	20	4	0	2
	2002/2003	885	51	12	1	30	4	0	1
	2003/2004	922	54	11	2	29	2	0	1
	2004/2005	841	53	20	1	25	1	0	0
Provincial/territorial total (includes all data)	2000/2001	81,939	42	31	5	14	6	1	1
	2001/2002	84,549	46	26	5	15	6	1	1
	2002/2003	82,678 ^r	47	26	5	17	4	0 ^{sr}	0 ^s
	2003/2004	78,104 ^r	45 ^r	27 ^r	5	17	5	0 ^{sr}	1 ^r
	2004/2005	80,561	45	27	5	17	5	0	1

.. not available for a specific reference period

^r revised

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between zero and the value that was rounded.

1. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/2002; Nova Scotia, 2002/2003; New Brunswick, 2002/2003; Alberta, 2003/2004 Saskatchewan, 2001/2002. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution. In 2004/2005, data for these respondents have been tabulated using a revised method of determining 'most serious offence' and, as such, comparison to previous years should be made with caution.

2. Offence data unavailable due to a changeover to a new case management system.

3. Offence data unavailable due to major system development work.

4. Nunavut - Data are provided by the informatic court services. Nunavut admissions to community corrections represent the unique number of persons admitted to a particular legal status during the year and not the number of distinct admissions.

Note: Calculations for percent distribution are based on total probation admissions excluding those where major offence is not known.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 6

Admissions to conditional sentence by most serious offence and sentence length, select jurisdictions, 2004/2005¹

Jurisdiction	Length of conditional sentence on admission	Total offences ²	Criminal Code				Federal statutes
			Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other	Drug offences
			%				
Newfoundland and Labrador	3 months or less	41	42	44	x	49	18
	More than 3 to 6 months	28	31	26	x	25	32
	More than 6 to 12 months	20	12	23	x	21	23
	More than 12 months to 18 months	8	12	6	x	x	16
	More than 18 months	4	x	x	x	x	12
	Total conditional sentence admissions (number)	408	86	154	9	96	57
Nova Scotia	3 months or less	21	22	19	x	32	7
	More than 3 to 6 months	22	27	20	x	25	5
	More than 6 to 12 months	26	20	31	x	21	32
	More than 12 months to 18 months	15	15	16	x	12	24
	More than 18 months	16	17	14	x	11	32
	Total conditional sentence admissions (number)	693	211	198	12	171	97
New Brunswick	3 months or less	24	27	19	x	41	10
	More than 3 to 6 months	25	29	26	x	26	16
	More than 6 to 12 months	29	33	28	x	19	38
	More than 12 months to 18 months	12	7	16	x	6	19
	More than 18 months	9	4	11	x	8	18
	Total conditional sentence admissions (number)	622	191	215	10	116	90
Saskatchewan	3 months or less	2	2	3	8	2	0
	More than 3 to 6 months	18	15	16	16	31	5
	More than 6 to 12 months	44	46	47	37	43	28
	More than 12 months to 18 months	21	19	22	18	16	35
	More than 18 months	15	17	12	21	8	32
	Total conditional sentence admissions (number)	1,459	472	476	38	333	136
Alberta	3 months or less	3	3	2	x	9	1
	More than 3 to 6 months	9	8	10	x	13	3
	More than 6 to 12 months	29	27	36	x	35	18
	More than 12 months to 18 months	28	28	29	x	24	32
	More than 18 months	31	34	24	x	19	46
	Total conditional sentence admissions (number)	1,386	312	493	18	191	356
Total - all available jurisdictions	3 months or less	12	12	11	9	19	4
	More than 3 to 6 months	18	19	17	22	25	8
	More than 6 to 12 months	32	33	36	30	32	24
	More than 12 months to 18 months	20	18	21	18	14	29
	More than 18 months	18	18	15	21	10	36
	Total conditional sentence admissions (number)	4,568	1,272	1,536	87	907	736

.. not available for a specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0⁵ value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between zero and the value that was rounded.

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

1. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated using a revised method of determining 'most serious offence'. Comparison to previous years should be made with caution.

2. Admissions for other federal statutes and Provincial/Territorial and Municipal offences have been excluded from this table due to small numbers.

Notes: Calculations for percent distribution are based on total conditional sentence admissions excluding those where most serious offence and/or sentence length is not known. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 7

Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal Identity, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, 2004/2005

	Total ¹		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	Number	% ²	Number	% ²	Number	% ²
Total	15,322	100.0	4,878	100.0	9,885	100.0
Sex						
Male	13,067	85.5	4,017	82.4	8,628	87.5
Female	2,224	14.5	858	17.6	1,229	12.5
Unknown	31	...	3	...	28	...
Age at first involvement admission date						
Under 18	2	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
18-19	1,449	9.5	550	11.3	823	8.3
20-24	3,265	21.3	1,165	23.9	1,949	19.7
25-29	2,460	16.1	889	18.2	1,481	15.0
30-34	2,091	13.7	752	15.4	1,281	13.0
35-39	1,862	12.2	612	12.5	1,199	12.1
40-44	1,745	11.4	460	9.4	1,224	12.4
45-49	1,125	7.3	243	5.0	850	8.6
50 and over	1,314	8.6	206	4.2	1,068	10.8
Unknown	9	...	0	...	9	...
Mean age (standard deviation)	32.6	(11.4)	30.4	(9.8)	33.9	(11.9)
Median age	31.0	...	28.0	...	32.0	...
Marital status³						
Single - never married	7,320	57.0	2,606	54.4	4,619	58.6
Married	1,224	9.5	346	7.2	863	10.9
Common-law	2,783	21.7	1,422	29.7	1,325	16.8
Separated/Divorced	1,449	11.3	392	8.2	1,041	13.2
Widowed	68	0.5	28	0.6	39	0.5
Unknown	2,478	...	84	...	1,998	...
Education completed for age 25 and over³						
No formal education	7	0.1	1	0.0	6	0.1
Some primary	578	7.1	343	11.4	230	4.5
Completed primary	743	9.1	295	9.8	443	8.8
Some secondary	2,418	29.7	1,461	48.5	926	18.3
Completed secondary	3,559	43.7	747	24.8	2,776	54.9
Some post-secondary	238	2.9	83	2.8	152	3.0
Completed post-secondary	606	7.4	82	2.7	522	10.3
Unknown	2,501	...	173	...	2,078	...
Employment status at admission³						
Unemployed (but able to work)	5,827	46.8	2,102	45.9	3,663	47.6
Employed (part-time, full-time)	5,166	41.5	1,635	35.7	3,453	44.8
Not employable - disabled, medical reasons, etc.	395	3.2	251	5.5	136	1.8
Student - not employed	594	4.8	273	6.0	308	4.0
Retired - not employed	55	0.4	0	0.0	55	0.7
Other - not employed	419	3.4	322	7.0	88	1.1
Unknown	2,866	...	295	...	2,182	...
Need indicated^{3,4}						
substance abuse (n = 4,967)	4,320	87.0	3,135	92.7	1,015	74.5
attitude (n = 4,959)	3,692	74.5	2,681	79.4	861	63.3
family/marital (n = 4,966)	2,761	55.6	1,985	58.7	652	47.8
personal/emotional (n = 4,966)	748	15.1	463	13.7	251	18.4
social interaction (n = 4,966)	3,726	75.0	2,756	81.5	831	61.0
employment (n = 4,966)	2,899	58.4	2,257	66.8	531	39.0

Table 7

Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal Identity, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, 2004/2005 (continued)

	Total ¹		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	Number	% ²	Number	% ²	Number	% ²
Number of needs indicated^{3,5}						
Zero to one	420	8.5	142	4.2	245	18.0
Two to three	1,580	31.9	925	27.4	575	42.2
Four	1,416	28.6	1,061	31.4	290	21.3
Five to six	1,542	31.1	1,246	36.9	251	18.4
Mean (standard deviation)	3.7	(1.4)	3.9	(1.3)	3.0	(1.5)
Median	4.0	...	4.0	...	3.0	...
Most serious offence, first involvement⁶						
Violent offences	4,890	31.9	1,696	34.8	2,992	30.3
Serious violent offences ⁷	1,327	8.7	636	13.0	638	6.5
Sexual offences	404	2.6	151	3.1	239	2.4
Robbery	362	2.4	164	3.4	185	1.9
Common assault	1,892	12.3	542	11.1	1,245	12.6
Other violent offences ⁸	905	5.9	203	4.2	685	6.9
Property offences	3,884	25.3	1,284	26.3	2,451	24.8
Break and enter	1,020	6.7	419	8.6	568	5.7
Theft and possession of property	1,724	11.3	580	11.9	1,077	10.9
Fraud	664	4.3	149	3.1	487	4.9
Other property offences	476	3.1	136	2.8	319	3.2
Offences against the administration of justice	1,475	9.6	578	11.8	844	8.5
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	1,250	8.2	500	10.3	705	7.1
<i>Criminal Code</i> - traffic offences	1,666	10.9	469	9.6	1,147	11.6
Drug offences	810	5.3	111	2.3	661	6.7
Other offences ⁹	1,347	8.8	240	4.9	1,085	11.0

1. Includes 559 (4%) cases where Aboriginal Identity was unknown.

2. Percentage calculations excludes 'unknown'.

3. Refers to most recent status as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

4. Excludes Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Need level indicated as medium or high.

5. Excludes Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and includes only those cases in which all needs were assessed. Need is indicated as being present when the need is assessed as medium or high. Maximum number of needs is 6 and minimum is 0. N = 4,958, N (Aboriginal) = 3,374, N (Non-Aboriginal) = 1,361.

6. Ranked using the CCJS Courts Program Seriousness Ranking, 2006.

7. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major assault.

8. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

9. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, municipal bylaw infractions, and unknown offences.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Operating expenditures of the adult correctional system, 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Current dollars									
	Custodial services		Community supervision services		Headquarters and central services		NPB or provincial parole boards ¹		Total	Per capita cost ²
	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	\$
Federal expenditures ³	986,723	64.8	160,156	10.5	333,842	21.9	41,200	2.7	1,521,921	47.64
Provincial and territorial expenditures ⁴	1,021,620	77.8	222,203	16.9	63,300	4.8	5,820	0.4	1,312,943	41.10
Total expenditures⁵	2,008,343	70.8	382,359	13.5	397,142	14.0	47,020	1.7	2,834,864	88.74

1. Provincial parole boards operate in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

2. Per capita cost is total cost of correctional services divided by the total Canadian population.

3. Federal expenditures include Correctional Service Canada and National Parole Board, but exclude CORCAN.

4. Capital costs have been excluded from all jurisdictions' expenditures.

5. Excludes all data from Prince Edward Island.

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Homicide in Canada, 2005

by Mia Dauvergne and Geoffrey Li

Highlights

- Following a substantial increase in 2004, the national homicide rate climbed another 4% in 2005 to 2.04 victims per 100,000 population, marking its highest point in nearly a decade.
- Canadian police services reported 658 homicides in 2005, 34 more than in 2004. The most substantial increases were reported in Ontario (+31) and Alberta (+23). Despite the overall increase, decreases were reported in British Columbia (-15) and Quebec (-11).
- Saskatchewan (4.33) and Manitoba (4.16) recorded the highest provincial rates. There were no homicides recorded in Prince Edward Island for the second year in a row.
- Among Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs), Edmonton reported the highest homicide rate (4.29), and its highest rate since CMA statistics were first available in 1981. There were no homicides reported in Saint John, Sherbrooke (for the third year in a row) and Trois-Rivières. Montréal's rate was its lowest since 1981 when CMA statistics were first available.
- There were 222 victims killed by a firearm in 2005, 49 more than the previous year. This is the third consecutive annual increase in firearm homicides. Handguns accounted for about 6 in 10 firearm homicides.
- Homicide data consistently show that victims are far more likely to be killed by someone they know than by a stranger. Among the 478 solved homicides in 2005, about half were killed by an acquaintance, one third by a family member and almost 20% by a stranger.
- The overall increase in homicides was driven by an increase in incidents committed by strangers and individuals known to each other through illegal activities. At the same time, 2005 marked the fewest parent-young child homicides committed since 1964.
- There were 74 spousal homicides in 2005, 1 fewer than in 2004, resulting in the fourth consecutive annual decline in the spousal homicide rate. Consistent with previous years, the 2005 spousal homicide rate against women was five times higher than the rate against men.
- Gang-related homicides rose to 107 in 2005 (16% of all homicides), 35 more than in 2004. The largest increase occurred in the province of Ontario, where the number of gang-related homicides doubled from last year. Two-thirds (68%) of all gang-related homicides were committed with a firearm, usually a handgun.
- The youth accused of homicide rate reached its highest point in more than a decade. There were 65 youths (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2005, 21 more than the previous year.
- Consistent with previous years, 9 in 10 persons accused of homicide and three-quarters of victims were male in 2005.
- In 2005, two-thirds of adult accused and about one-third of youth accused of homicide had a criminal record in Canada. Half of all adult victims and one-quarter of youth victims also had a criminal record.

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Introduction

While homicides account for only a relatively small proportion (0.02%) of all crime known to police in Canada each year, homicide is considered to be the most serious of all criminal acts. It is more likely than most other crimes to become known to police and to be the subject of thorough investigation. An indication of the priority given to homicide investigations is the number of police services that have specialized homicide units. Unlike other crimes, the definition of homicide tends to be fairly consistent across nations. There is more international consensus on the nature and meaning of homicide than any other criminal offence. Thus, homicide is important to examine, not only because of its severity, but also because it is believed to be a fairly reliable barometer of violence in society.

There are four types of *Criminal Code* offences that constitute homicide: first-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.¹ As part of the Homicide Survey,² the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) collects detailed police-reported information on all homicides that occur in Canada.

This *Juristat* examines homicide trends at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. Information describing the methods used to commit homicide (including the use of firearms), accused-victim relationships (such as spousal or other family-related homicides), gang-related homicides, victims' involvement in illegal activities, the use of alcohol and drugs, and youth homicides is also presented.

New for 2005

This year the results of a retrospective project to update the clearance status information on all homicides that had occurred in Canada since 1961 (when the Homicide Survey began data collection) are available. As a result, for the first time, this report provides a detailed analysis of homicide clearance rates among the largest police services in Canada. The authors would like to thank Rick Labovitch, Technical Support Officer for the Homicide Survey, for collecting, organizing and capturing all the data pertaining to the retrospective research project. The authors would also like to thank the Canadian police services who participated in this project for their co-operation and assistance with providing updated, and often archived, information.

In addition, a new variable was added this year to collect data on whether female victims were pregnant at the time of the homicide. The initial results for this variable are now available in this report.

General trends

Canadian police services reported 658 homicides in 2005, 34 more than in 2004. The 2005 overall homicide rate reached 2.04 victims per 100,000 population, a 4% increase over the previous year and the first time in nearly a decade that the rate exceeded 2.0 victims. The increase in homicide coincides with increases in the rates of other serious violent offences, including attempted murder (+14%), aggravated assault (+10%) and robbery (+3%) (Gannon, 2006).

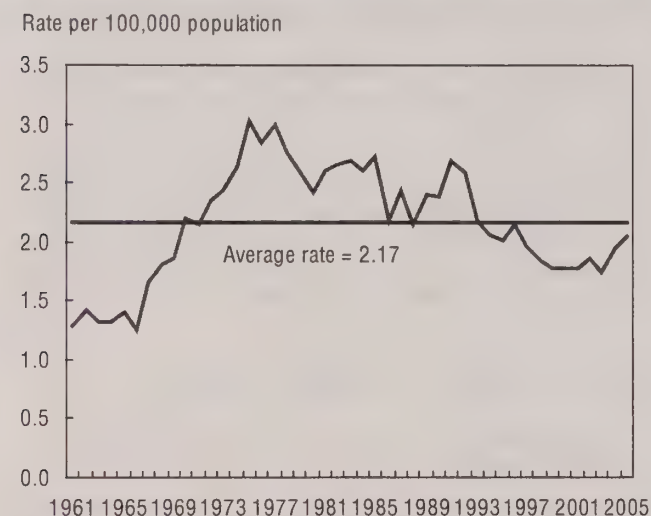
1. For definitions of homicide offences, see the Glossary of Terms section at the end of this report. The classification of homicide incidents in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change; however, this change will not be reflected in this report.
2. For more information on the Homicide Survey, see the Methodology section at the end of this report.

Despite the increase in 2005, homicides continued to comprise a small proportion of all violent crime known to police (0.2%). By comparison, in 2005, there were 772 attempted murders, about 23,000 sexual assaults and over 235,000 other assaults (Gannon, 2006).

Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two distinct trends. Following a period of stability between 1961 and 1966, the homicide rate more than doubled over the next ten years, reaching a peak of 3.03 homicide victims (per 100,000 population) in 1975. Since 1975, despite annual fluctuations, the rate has gradually declined (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Homicide rate, Canada, 1961 to 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Among the 623 incidents (involving 658 victims)³ in 2005, police classified about half (45%) of all incidents as first degree murder, another 44% as second degree murder and 11% as manslaughter. There were 2 incidents of infanticide. These proportions have remained relatively consistent for more than a decade.

International comparisons

The homicide rate in Canada is about 3 times lower than in the United States⁴, despite the declining rate in the US in recent years. When comparing to other countries, it was found that Canada's 2005 homicide rate was close to that of New Zealand (Text table).⁵ While also lower than Sweden and Scotland, the rate in Canada was higher than the rates in many other countries such as England and Wales, Denmark, and Japan.

Text table

Homicide rates for selected countries, 2005

Country	Rate per 100,000 population
Ukraine	7.04
Turkey	6.23
United States	5.63
Scotland ¹	2.69
Sweden	2.64
Finland	2.17
Canada	2.04
New Zealand	2.00
Armenia	1.71
Northern Ireland ²	1.68
Hungary	1.64
France	1.59
Australia	1.45
England & Wales ²	1.43
Germany	0.98
Denmark	0.98
Japan	0.64
Hong Kong	0.49
Singapore	0.48

1. figures reflect 2004-05 data

2. figures reflect 2005-06 data

Source: National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa, and national statistical office websites.

Geographical patterns

Homicide rates highest in the west

Historically, homicide rates have generally been higher in the western provinces than in the east (Table 2). The 2005 provincial distribution of homicides mirrored this pattern observed in previous years.

Three of the four western provinces, Saskatchewan (4.33), Manitoba (4.16) and Alberta (3.35), recorded the highest rates among the ten provinces in 2005 (Figure 2). The rate in Saskatchewan reached its highest point in almost three decades. British Columbia was the only western province to report a decline from 2004.

While the rates in Newfoundland and Labrador (1.74) and New Brunswick (1.20) increased from 2004, they remained below the national average of 2.04. Nova Scotia reported a rate of 2.13, the fourth highest among all the provinces. There were no homicides in Prince Edward Island for the second year in a row.

The 2005 homicide rate in Quebec decreased from 2004 and remained well below the national average. While the rate in

3. As is the case every year, the incident count is lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

4. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2006). "Crime in the United States - 2005". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.

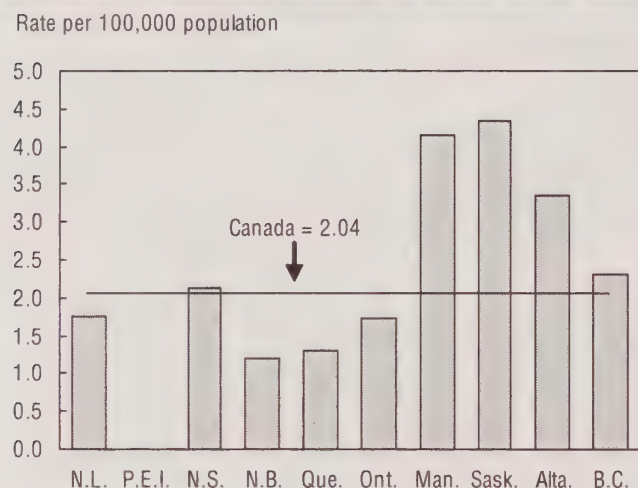
5. International data are based upon the most recent figures available from the National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa, and the national statistical offices of selected countries.

Ontario was its highest in more than ten years, it was also below the rate for Canada as a whole.

Given the relatively small populations in the territories, the rates in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut tend to fluctuate considerably from year to year. Although they consistently report a low number of homicides, in 2005, the rates in Yukon (3.23) and Nunavut (6.67) were well above the national average. There were no homicides reported in the Northwest Territories for the first time since 1968.

Figure 2

Homicide rates by province, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Edmonton reports its highest homicide rate, Montréal its lowest since 1981

Violent crime, and particularly homicide, is often perceived to be a phenomenon of large urban areas. However, historical Canadian data do not support this perception, as census metropolitan areas⁶ (CMAs) typically report a homicide rate similar to that in non-CMAs (areas with populations less than 100,000). In 2005, non-CMAs reported a combined rate (2.07) virtually the same as Canada's CMAs as a whole (2.02).

Table 3 divides the CMAs into two major population categories. The first category is comprised of Canada's nine largest CMAs with populations of 500,000 and over. Historically, these large urban centres have tended to report higher rates of homicide than the smaller CMAs, and 2005 was no exception, as the combined rate in the larger CMAs (2.08) was higher than the smaller CMAs (1.85).

As a group, the nine largest CMAs recorded 10 more homicides in 2005 than in 2004. Edmonton reported the highest rate among all CMAs and its highest rate since CMA statistics were

first collected in 1981. The 2005 rates in Toronto (Canada's largest CMA) and Calgary also increased, reaching their highest points in more than a decade. Only Montréal, Québec and Winnipeg (whose rate peaked in 2004) reported declines. With 48 homicides, the rate in Montréal (1.31) was its lowest since 1981.

The second CMA category is comprised of the 19 smaller-sized urban areas with populations between 100,000 and 500,000. It should be noted that, because of the small number of homicides in these communities and their relatively small populations, a minor change in the number of homicides in these areas will have a large impact on the rates.

With 90 homicides, these smaller CMAs reported 17 more homicides in 2005 than in 2004. London and St. Catharines-Niagara showed the greatest increase in the number of homicides, while Oshawa had the greatest decrease. Although lower than last year, Regina (3.97) had the highest rate among the smaller CMAs. There were no homicides in Sherbrooke (for the third year in a row), Saint John and Trois-Rivières.

Non-CMAs reported 231 homicides in 2005, 7 more than in 2004, but lower than the previous ten-year average.

Table 4 shows the distribution of homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of Canada's largest municipal police services. This table illustrates how homicide rates can vary within a CMA. In general, homicide rates tend to be higher among police services that patrol inner city areas compared to the corresponding CMA areas that include suburban and/or rural areas.

Methods used to commit homicide

Shooting most common method used to commit homicide in 2005

Over the years, the most common method used to commit homicide has varied between stabbings and shootings (Table 5, Figure 3). In 2005, the most common method used was shootings, accounting for one-third (34%) of all homicides.

Although the proportion remained relatively stable compared to previous years, the rate of firearm homicides increased for the third year in a row to 0.69 per 100,000 population. This rate is virtually the same as it was 20 years ago. However, the longer-term trend in the use of firearms to commit homicide has seen a general decline since the mid-1970s, similar to the trend in total homicides.

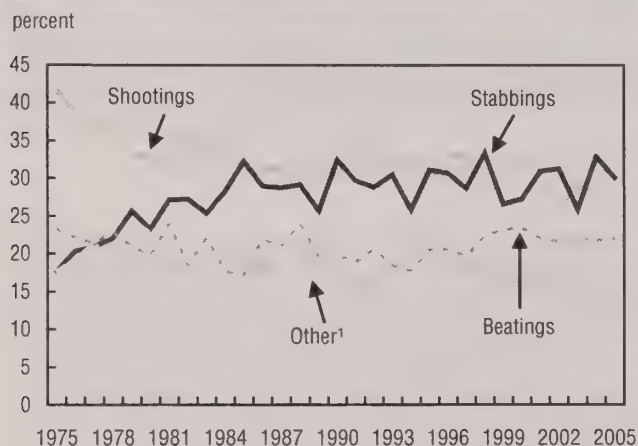
6. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been adjusted slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.

Firearm-related homicides account for less than 1 in 5 fatalities involving firearms. According to 2003 health statistics (the latest year for which figures are available), there were a total of 792 deaths in Canada that involved a firearm. Among these, more than three-quarters (78%) were suicides, 17% homicides and 3% accidental discharges of a firearm. The remaining 2% were due to legal intervention (i.e. police shooting) or undetermined intent (Statistics Canada, 2003).

While a third of the homicides in 2005 were by use of a firearm, 30% of homicide victims were stabbed to death, 22% were beaten, and 7% were strangled or suffocated. Other causes of death were less common – Shaken Baby Syndrome, fire (e.g., smoke inhalation or burns), and by motor vehicle.

Figure 3

Most common methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1975 to 2005



1. Other includes strangulation, poisoning, deaths caused by fire (smoke inhalation), exposure/hypothermia, Shaken Baby Syndrome, deaths caused by vehicles, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Handguns most common type of firearm used in homicides

The type of firearm used during the commission of homicides has changed over the past three decades. Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns and sawed-off rifle/shotguns were used far more frequently than handguns but, beginning in the early 1990s, the proportions began to reverse. In 2005, handguns accounted for 58% of all firearm-related homicides whereas rifles/shotguns and sawed-off rifle/shotguns accounted for 30% (Table 7). The remaining 12% were committed with a fully automatic firearm, a firearm-like weapon, or a firearm of unknown type.

As with homicide rates in general, the highest firearm-related homicide rates in 2005 were reported in the western provinces. The rate of firearm homicides increased in all regions in 2005 except for Manitoba, British Columbia and the territories.

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began to collect supplemental information on firearm-related homicides including: firearm registration, ownership, possession of a valid firearms license by the accused, firearm status (lost, stolen or missing) and classification of the weapon (restricted/prohibited). It is important to note that a substantial portion of firearm-related information has been reported to the Homicide Survey as "unknown"⁷ by police either because the firearm was not recovered or because investigations were on-going. Between 1997 and 2005 in Canada, firearm-related information on registration status, licensing and ownership was reported as unknown by police among more than half of all homicides. The following analysis refers only to homicides where firearm registration, ownership and licensing information were known.

Among the homicides which occurred between 1997 and 2005 where detailed firearm information was known, 70% were not registered and four out of every five (79%) accused persons did not possess a valid firearms license. Where ownership of the firearm could be determined by police, the accused owned the firearm in 51% of these homicides, compared to 13% that were owned by victims. For the remaining homicides, someone other than the accused or the victim owned the firearm (36%).

The available data suggest that most firearms used to commit homicide were not registered and the accused persons were not licensed firearm users. Studies in Australia and England and Wales have found similar results (Mouzos, 2000).

Firearm recovery

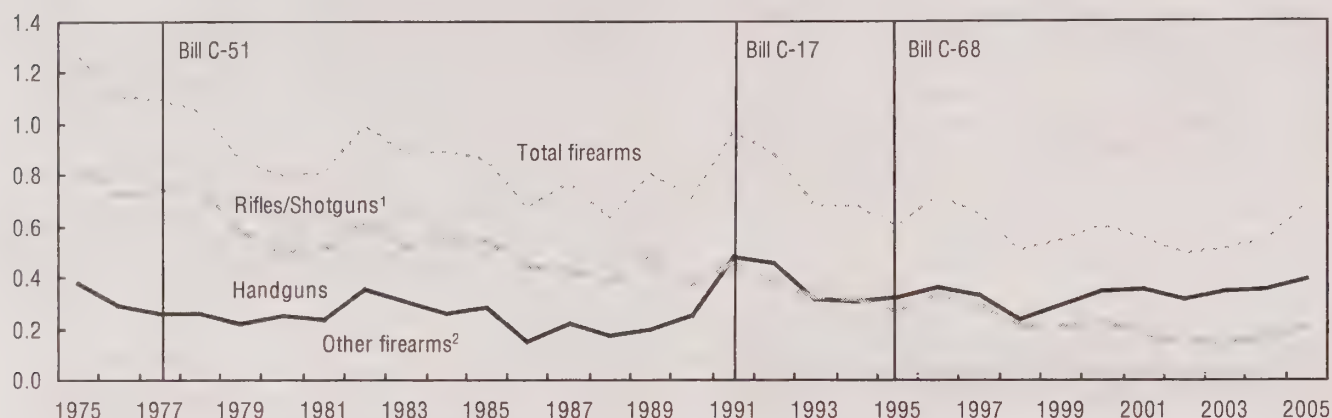
In 2005, the Homicide Survey began asking police service respondents to indicate whether or not the firearm used in the commission of a homicide had been recovered by police during the course of their investigation. Among the 222 shootings in 2005, 40% of all guns were recovered by police and 60% were not recovered (percentages exclude 29 firearms for which police reported the recovery status as unknown). Among the 78 firearms that were recovered by police in 2005, 23 were reported as having been registered with the Canadian Firearms Registry and 42 were reported as not registered. The registration status was unknown for the remaining 13 firearms.

7. Among the 1,572 firearm-related homicides between 1997 and 2005, police reported registration status as unknown for 894 homicides, licensing information as unknown for 875 homicides and ownership information as unknown for 970 homicides.

Figure 4

Rate of firearm homicides, Canada, 1975 to 2005

Rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.

2. Includes firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.

Note: The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun-control legislation and homicide rates. See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Firearm Legislation

Firearm licensing and registration in Canada originated in the late 19th century. In 1892, the first firearm laws were introduced requiring owners of pistols to carry a certificate of exemption. In 1919 and 1920, it became a criminal offence for anyone to purchase a firearm without first having a firearms permit. In 1934, a centralized registry was established which required all handguns to be registered and, in 1951, automatic firearms were added to the category of firearms to be registered.

In 1969, Parliament enacted Bill C-150 and amended the *Criminal Code* which, for the first time, made it illegal to provide firearms to persons of "unsound mind" or criminals under prohibition orders. The legislation also expanded the definition of a "firearm" which, prior to 1969, only included handguns and automatic firearms, and introduced non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearm categories. All weapons falling within the "restricted weapons" category were made subject to registration requirements while possession of a "prohibited weapon" was made an offence for anyone not falling within certain exempted classes such as military personnel or peace officers.

In 1977, Parliament enacted Bill C-51 and amended the *Criminal Code* requiring individuals to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC). The legislation also introduced a variety of provisions including regulations on safe storage and display of firearms for businesses and bona-fide gun collectors. Mandatory minimum sentences to deter the criminal use of firearms were also introduced.

In 1991, Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants by introducing new legislation (Bill C-17). A multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, photograph, and a mandatory 28-day waiting period for approved FAC applicants was incorporated. The minimum age of applicants was raised to 18 years and the powers of police and firearms officers to conduct background checks on applicants were enhanced.

In 1995, Parliament passed Bill C-68 which created a scheme to control the acquisition, possession, use, transfer, manufacture, distribution, import and export of all types of weapons, but principally firearms and ammunition. Universal licensing came into effect on January 1, 2001 requiring all persons to have a valid license in order to own, possess or register a firearm or to purchase ammunition. As of January 1, 2003, all firearms (including non-restricted rifles and shotguns) had to be registered. In addition, strict new penalties for the trafficking and smuggling of firearms, and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for serious offences involving firearms were created.

Figure 4 shows the firearm-related homicide rate between 1974 and 2005, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun control legislation and homicide rates.

Accused-victim relationship

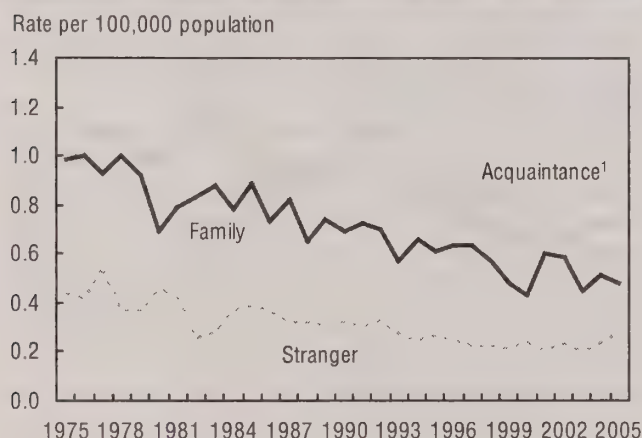
Most victims knew their killer

Homicide data consistently indicate that victims are far more likely to be killed by someone they know than by a stranger.⁸ Among solved homicides in 2005, four out of five victims knew their killer. Half (49%) of the victims were killed by an acquaintance (i.e. non-family), another one-third (33%) were killed by a family member and 18% of victims were killed by strangers (Table 8). The rate at which victims were killed by strangers, however, has increased in each of the two years since the 30-year low in 2003 (Figure 5).

Of those killed by an acquaintance, half (52%) of the 233 victims knew their perpetrator on a casual basis. One-quarter (25%) were killed by someone with whom they had a criminal relationship (e.g. prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients), a 41% increase over 2004.

Figure 5

Homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada, 1975 to 2005



1. Includes criminal relationships.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Homicides of children under 12 committed by parents at 40-year low

Family-related homicides are those that are committed by a spouse (current or former), parent, child, sibling or other person related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption.⁹ In 2005, the number of family-related homicides was quite similar to that reported in 2004. The most notable difference occurred in the number of parents who were accused of killing their young children. In 2005, there were 20 victims killed by a parent, 13 of whom were under the age of 12 years, compared to 2004, where 37 victims were killed by a parent, 27 of whom were under the age of 12 (Table 10). The 13 young victims killed by a parent was substantially lower than the previous 10-year average of 34 and the lowest total since 1964.

Homicide during pregnancy

Studies in the United States have identified homicide to be a leading cause of injury-related death among pregnant women and new mothers (Chang et al., 2005; Krulwich, C. et al., 2001). Several factors have been associated with an increased risk for violence and homicide during pregnancy, including being young (20 years or less) and prior episodes of interpersonal violence during the pregnancy (Campbell, Oliver & Bullock, 1998).

In 2005, Canada became one of only a handful of countries to begin collecting national data on whether female victims were pregnant at the time of the homicide. Police reported that six female victims were pregnant at the time of the homicide. Two of the six women were under the age of 20 years. Four of the six victims were killed by their intimate partner (one remains unsolved) and all but one victim was stabbed to death.

It is important to note that the incidence of homicide against pregnant women may be under-reported, particularly among women who may be newly pregnant, as an autopsy may not necessarily include an examination of the woman's uterus. Additionally, this information was not provided for 24 female victims of child-bearing age.

Spousal homicides continue to decline

Spousal homicides are those that involve persons in legal marriages, those who are separated or divorced from such unions and those in common-law relationships (including same-sex spouses). In 2005, there were 74 spousal homicides, slightly lower than the previous year, resulting in the fourth consecutive annual decline in the spousal homicide rate. Since the mid 1970s, spousal homicide rates have been generally declining.

Despite this decrease, spousal homicides accounted for about 16% of all solved homicides and almost half (47%) of all family homicides. As is typically the case, women were much more likely than men to be killed by their spouse – the 2005 spousal homicide rate against females (0.71 per 100,000 female spouses) was 5 times higher than the rate for males (0.14 per 100,000 male spouses) (Figure 6).¹⁰

In 2005, there were no same-sex spousal homicides; since 1997 when this information was first collected, there have been six same-sex spousal homicides.

As with the homicide rate in general, spousal homicide tends to be lower in the eastern provinces than in the western provinces. In 2005, the highest rates were recorded in Manitoba (0.84) and Alberta (0.75) (Table 9). The rate in Quebec (0.30) was the lowest since this information became available in 1974. It should be noted that the small number of spousal homicides can lead to large year-to-year fluctuations in the rate.

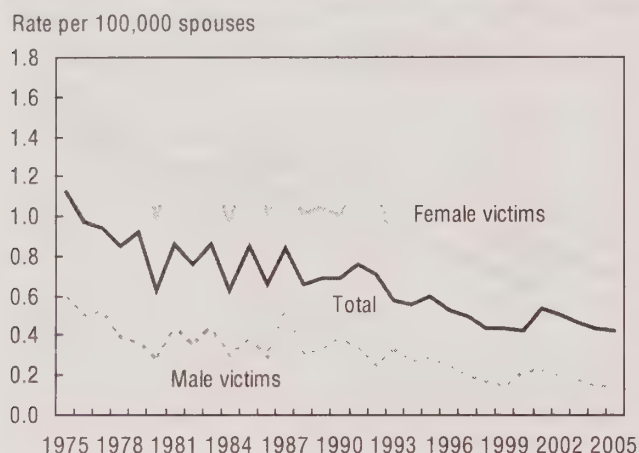
8. Analysis of the information on accused-victim relationship is limited to those homicides in which an accused person has been identified (i.e. solved cases).

9. For more information on family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, see Ogradnik, L. (2006). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006*. Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Statistics Canada: Ottawa.

10. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses age 15 years and older.

Figure 6

Spousal homicide rate¹, Canada, 1975 to 2005



1. Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes 6 same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Prior research has suggested that those living in common-law relationships are at higher risk of spousal violence compared to those living in legally married relationships (Mihorean, 2005). Results from the Homicide Survey lend support to this finding. In 2005, the homicide rate against persons living in common-law relationships (1.49 per 100,000 common-law persons) was almost 6 times higher than the rate for those living in legal marriages (0.26 per 100,000 married persons). Higher spousal homicide rates among common-law relationships versus married unions held true for both male (0.76 and 0.03 respectively) and female victims (2.23 and 0.53 respectively).¹¹

The Homicide Survey asks police respondents to indicate whether there had been a history or pattern of violence among homicides involving family members. The findings suggest that many spousal homicides stemmed from a history of prior abuse. In 2005, police reported a history of family violence among 61% of spousal homicides, similar to the proportion found in earlier years. Prior violence was more often reported when the spousal victim was male (83%) than female (56%).¹²

Following an increase in 2004, homicides involving other types of intimate partner relationships (e.g. current or former boyfriends and girlfriends) decreased in 2005. Among solved homicides of victims 15 years and older, more than half (58%) of all females were killed by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship at some point (either through marriage or dating) compared to 10% of males. Males were far more likely to be killed by an acquaintance or a stranger.

Infants continue to be at highest risk for homicides against children

In 2005, there were 33 homicides perpetrated against children who were less than 12 years of age, slightly lower than in 2004 and much lower than the previous 10-year average of 45 (Table 10). As has been the case every year since 1974, infants were at the highest risk for homicide among all child victims. There were 11 infants killed in 2005 – approximately 3.26 out of every 100,000 infants.

Consistent with previous years, most solved homicides committed against children in 2005 were perpetrated by parents. Of the 22 solved homicides involving victims less than 12 years of age, 13 (or 59%) were killed by their parent or step-parent, four were committed by another family member, four by a family friend, caregiver or acquaintance, and one by a stranger.

Characteristics of homicide incidents

Gang-related homicides increase in 2005

Gang-related homicides are those reported by police to occur as a consequence of activities involving an organized crime group or street gang (see Glossary section for definitions). Examples include killing a rival gang member over a “turf war” or a drug debt. Almost two-thirds of gang-related homicides were motivated by the “settling of accounts”. Homicides of innocent bystanders who are killed as a result of gang-related activity are also considered to be gang-related.

Over the past decade, the number of homicides involving gangs reported by police has steadily increased (Table 11). In 2005, there were 107 homicides (or 16% of all homicides) in which police determined or suspected the involvement of gang-related activity, up from 72 confirmed gang homicides in 2004. This increase may be partially due to a revision that was made to the Homicide Survey in 2005 to identify those homicides in which gang-related activity was “suspected” by police, and not just “determined”. In past years, it is not known if “suspected” homicides were included in the totals.

The biggest increase occurred in the province of Ontario, where the number of gang-related homicides doubled from 14 in 2004 to 31 in 2005. Most of the increase in Ontario was in Toronto. Gang-related homicides occurred predominantly in the CMAs of Toronto (23), Edmonton (16), Montréal (15), and Calgary (9). Only 15 gang-related homicides occurred in non-CMAs. Since recording began in 1991, there has not been a gang-related homicide reported in any of the territories.

Compared to other types of homicide, those that are gang-related more often involve firearms. Over two-thirds (69%) of gang-related homicides were committed with a firearm, usually a handgun, compared to just over one-quarter (27%) of non-gang-related killings.

11. Spousal homicide rates by separated and divorced relationships were not calculated as the available population estimates were not fully consistent with the corresponding relationship types reported by police.

12. The Homicide Survey does not identify the perpetrator of the violence, only that a history or pattern of violence between the victim and the accused person was present.

Multiple-victim incidents similar to previous 10-year average

As is the case every year, the vast majority of homicide incidents in 2005 involved one victim (594 or 95%). However, there were 29 multiple-victim incidents, similar to the previous 10-year average.

Multiple-victim incidents involve family members more often than single-victim incidents. Of all solved multiple-victim incidents in 2005, 42% were committed by family members, 31% by strangers, and 26% by acquaintances¹³. By comparison, most single-victim homicides were committed by acquaintances (48%) and family members (32%), with strangers (17%) and other intimate relationships (4%) being responsible for the remainder. Among solved multiple-victim incidents, virtually all accused persons (23 of 24) were male.

Murder-suicides usually family-related

About 6% of all incidents culminate in the suicide of the accused person. In 2005, there were 35 murder-suicide incidents (involving 42 victims), slightly lower than the previous 10-year average of 38. As in previous years, most murder-suicides in 2005 involved family members (e.g., spouse, parent) or intimate partner (current or former) relationships (86%), and most accused persons (34 of 35) were male.

Mental illness is often reported among persons who commit murder-suicide. In 2005, police suspected the presence of a mental disorder (e.g. depression) among almost half (46%) of all persons accused of murder-suicide.

Most homicides occur in a private residence

Similar to previous years, almost two-thirds (61%) of homicide incidents in 2005 occurred in a private residence. Among these incidents, 38% occurred in the victim's home, 35% occurred in a residence that was jointly occupied by both the victim and the accused, 14% occupied by neither victim or accused, and 12% occupied by the accused. The remaining incidents were distributed as follows: 26% in an open area (parking lot, street or open field); 6% in a commercial place (convenience store, gas station, bar or restaurant); 2% in a privately owned vehicle or a taxi; and 2% in a public institution (high school, hospital or correctional institution).

Not surprisingly, the vast majority of family-related incidents (94%) occurred in a private residence, most commonly the home of both the victim and the accused.

Characteristics of victims and accused

Males accounted for the majority of victims and accused persons

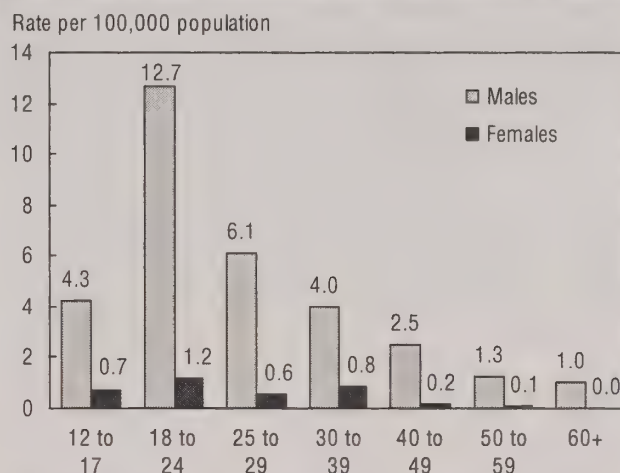
Consistent with previous years, 9 in 10 persons accused of homicide were male in 2005 (Table 12). The rate of accused males peaked at 18 to 24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. While the rate for female accused also peaked at 18 to 24 years of age, there was also a second, less pronounced peak, in the 30 to 39 age range before declining sharply later in life (Figure 7).

Almost three-quarters (73%) of homicide victims in 2005 were male – there were 480 male victims and 178 female victims. The victimization rate for males peaked at 25 to 29 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. On the other hand, female victimization rates are highest between 18 to 39 years of age, with the peak at 30 to 39 years of age. Female victimization rates decline with age after 40, except later in life where there is a slight increase at 60+ years of age (Figure 8).

13. Includes neighbours, casual acquaintances and criminal relationships.

Figure 7

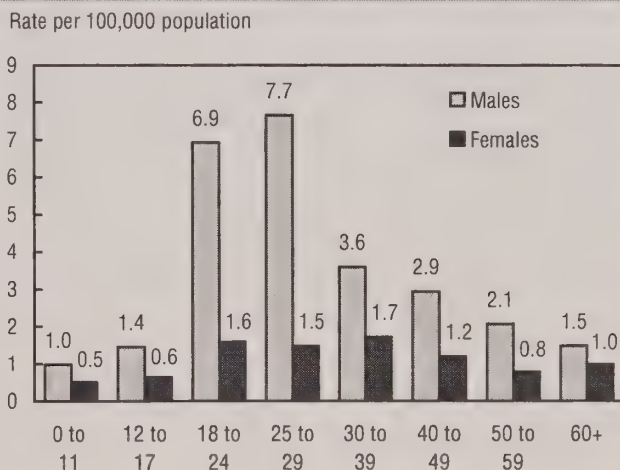
Accused homicide rates by age group and sex, Canada, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Figure 8

Victim homicide rates by age group and sex, Canada, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Homicide clearance rates¹

Background

Each year, the Homicide Survey collects information on the clearance status (i.e. solved by police or unsolved) of every homicide that occurs in Canada. However, because of the complex and time-consuming nature of many homicide investigations, some incidents are solved only after they have been reported to the Homicide Survey. This more up-to-date information is not necessarily conveyed to the Homicide Survey resulting in historical police service clearance rates for homicides being continually under-estimated.

Methodology

In order to accurately examine police service clearance rates for homicide over time, a retrospective project was undertaken to update the clearance status information on all unsolved homicides that had occurred in Canada since 1961 (when the Homicide Survey began data collection). Every police service in Canada that had reported at least one unsolved homicide since that time was contacted to verify the accuracy of information. In total, 89 different police services were asked to update their information on 3,875 homicides that had occurred since 1961. In total, the clearance status of 427 (or 11%) of these previously unsolved homicides was updated to solved.

Between 1961 and 1973, homicide clearance rates are only available by province and territory. Starting in 1974, data according to police service became available. Analysis by individual police service will look at data between 1976 and 2005 to allow for an even 30-year timeframe.

Geographical variation

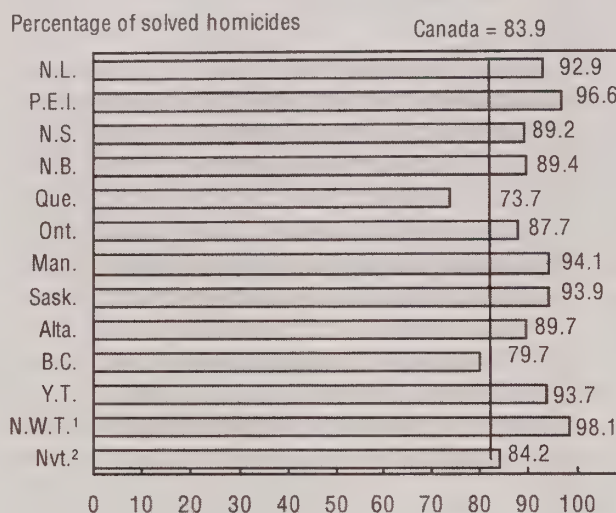
Overall, among the approximately 24,000 homicides that have occurred in Canada since recording began in 1961, 85% have been solved by police. Homicide clearance rates were at their highest, hovering around 90%, during the early and mid-1960s (when the homicide rate was at its lowest). For the next three decades the homicide clearance rate remained relatively stable; then, beginning in the mid-1990s the rate began to gradually decline. By 2005, the homicide clearance rate was 73%. It is important to keep in mind, however, that a somewhat lower rate is expected in more recent years given that police have had less time to solve these homicides.

Between 1976 and 2005,² the highest clearance rates for homicide were reported in the provinces and territories reporting a relatively low number of homicides; namely, the Northwest Territories (98%) and Prince Edward Island (97%). Over the same 30-year period, clearance rates for homicide were lowest in Quebec (74%). Low clearance rates were seen among several of Quebec's major municipal police services including Montréal (65%), Laval (67%), and Longueuil (74%), all of whom reported some of the lowest clearance rates in the country. Quebec's lower clearance rates may in part be a result of the province having a high proportion of shootings and victims involved in illegal activities. Homicides involving these characteristics tend to be less likely to be solved. For more information on how type of weapon and victim's involvement in illegal activities affect clearance rates please see the subsequent "Characteristics of unsolved homicides" section in this text box. In addition to the three police services already mentioned in Quebec, some of the lowest clearance rates were also found in the larger cities, such as Toronto and Vancouver.

Among the largest police services, London Police Service reported the highest overall clearance rate, with 98% of all homicides having been solved between 1976 and 2005. This rate was followed closely by Greater Sudbury and Niagara Regional.

Text box figure

Homicide clearance rates by province and territory, 1976 to 2005



1. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

2. Clearance rate for Nunavut is from 1999 to 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Time taken to solve homicides

Generally, most homicides that are solved by police are done so fairly quickly. Among solved homicides between 1991 and 2005³, 70% were solved within a week and another 25% within a year. Only 5% were solved by police a year or more following the date of the incident.

There is some variation in the average length of time taken to solve a homicide depending on the relationship between the accused and the victim. Excluding homicides committed by parents, 81% of the 1,998 homicides perpetrated by a family member (such as a spouse, sibling, son, daughter or extended family member) were solved within a week. However, those committed by parents tended to take longer for police to solve (65% were solved within a week).

Homicides committed by and against a criminal associate were the least likely to be solved quickly – less than half (45%) were solved within a week. On average, this type of homicide took police approximately six and a half months to solve.

Homicides committed by strangers also tended to take police longer to solve compared to homicides in which the accused person was known to the victim. On average, homicides committed by strangers were solved by police a little over four months after the date of the incident.

1. Clearance rates are often used as a tool to measure police service effectiveness. However, it is important to keep in mind that clearance rates are but one method used to evaluate police performance.
2. Homicide clearance rates are not available according to police service prior to 1974. In order to examine an even 30-year period, this analysis begins in 1976.
3. Clearance date is not always available prior to 1991, therefore the average time taken to solve a homicide cannot be calculated prior to this date.

continued on next page

Text table 1

Clearance rates for police services policing over 150,000 population, 1976 to 2005

Police service	Total homicides number	Clearance rate 1976-2005
		%
London	139	97.8
Greater Sudbury	99	96.0
Niagara Regional	216	95.4
Durham Regional	114	94.7
Winnipeg	573	94.4
Peel Regional	240	94.2
St. John's (RNC*)	49	93.9
Regina	186	93.5
Ottawa	319	92.8
OPP	1,042	91.2
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)	4,713	89.0
Windsor	181	90.6
Waterloo	148	90.5
Hamilton	332	90.4
Calgary	450	89.6
Saskatoon	152	89.5
Halton Regional	69	87.0
Edmonton	657	86.0
Gatineau-Métro	89	85.4
Québec	244	81.6
Sûreté du Québec	1,245	80.3
Halifax	157	80.3
Toronto	1,748	78.4
York Regional	159	75.5
Longueuil	185	74.1
Vancouver	772	69.9
Laval	173	67.1
Montréal	2,003	65.4

* Royal Newfoundland Constabulary

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Characteristics of unsolved homicides

The characteristics of solved and unsolved homicides tend to differ. For example, unsolved homicides were more likely than solved homicides to involve a firearm. Between 1991 and 2005, 54% of all unsolved homicides were committed with a firearm compared to 27% of solved homicides. Firearm-related homicides were more likely to be solved when the type of weapon used was a rifle or shotgun compared to when the weapon used was a fully automatic firearm or a handgun.

Unsolved homicides were also more likely than solved homicides to involve illegal activities. Over the past 15 years, 37% of unsolved homicides were committed against victims who were involved in illegal activities (e.g. gangs, drugs, prostitution) compared to 9% of solved homicides.

While controlling for other factors (i.e. victim's age, gender and marital status as well as the location, time and number of victims killed in the incident), homicides involving firearms were found to be 2.9 times more likely to be unsolved compared to homicides involving other types of weapons. Homicides against victims who were involved in illegal activities were also 3.5 times more likely to be unsolved compared to homicides in which the victim was legally employed or not in the workforce.

When looking at individual police services, those with the highest proportion of homicides involving shootings and illegal activities tend to report the lowest homicide clearance rates. For example, three of Canada's four largest municipal police services, Toronto, Montréal, and York not only reported some of the lower clearance rates, but they also reported the highest proportion of homicides involving shootings and illegal activities.

Two-thirds of adult accused and half of all adult victims had a criminal past

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on the criminal history of victims and accused persons. While it is possible for a person to have more than one prior conviction, police are asked only to indicate the most serious.

In 2005, almost two-thirds (64%) of adults (18 years or older) accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record. Among those adults with a criminal history, 62% had a prior conviction for a violent offence: 6 for homicide, 53 for robbery and 145 for another type of violent offence (such as assault).

As with adults, a substantial proportion of youth accused had a criminal past. Among the 65 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2005, more than one-third (37%) had a criminal history. About half (54%) of all youth with a criminal history had a conviction for a violent offence (none of which were for homicide). Male accused, as both adults and youth, were more likely than females to have a criminal past.

Prior contact with the criminal justice system is not limited to accused persons. Half (52%) of all adult homicide victims (18

years or older) had a Canadian criminal record. Half of these victims had a prior violent conviction: 4 for homicide, 32 for robbery and 116 for other violent offences. Of the 27 youth victims (12 to 17 years), seven were reported by police to have a prior criminal conviction.

Aboriginal people are over-represented as homicide victims and accused

While Aboriginal people account for approximately 3% of the Canadian population, they comprised 17% of victims and 23% of persons accused of committing homicide in 2005. It is important to note that these data exclude about 50% of victims and accused persons where police reported Aboriginal origin as unknown. In accordance with internal guidelines, some police services (such as the RCMP and the Toronto Police Service) do not report the Aboriginal origin of victims and accused persons to the Homicide Survey.¹⁴

14. For further information on Aboriginal people as victims and accused persons, see Brzozowski, J., Taylor-Butts, A., and S. Johnson. (2006). "Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada." *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XIE. Vol. 26, No. 3. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Youth Homicide

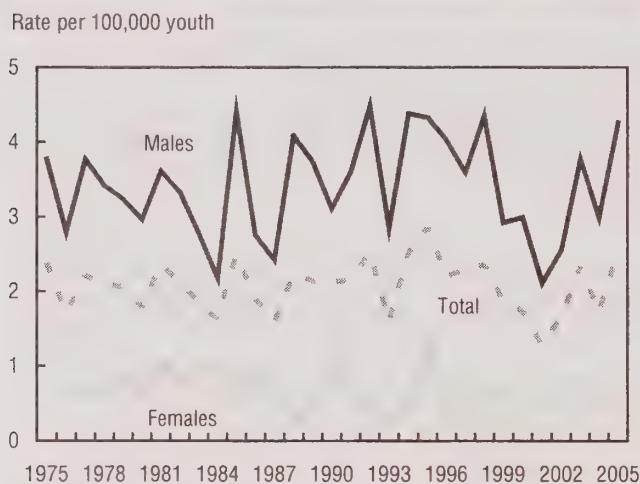
Homicides committed by youth increase in 2005

There were 65 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2005, 21 more than the previous year (Table 13). In 2005, the rate of youth accused reached its highest point in more than a decade (Figure 9). The increase in the number of youth accused of homicide in 2005 is in contrast to the findings for youth crime overall which decreased by 6%, including violent crime (-2%) (Gannon, 2006).

Among the 65 youth accused, 86% were males, which is the same as the previous 10-year average proportion (Table 13).

Figure 9

Youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1975 to 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Most homicides are committed by lone accused; however, homicides committed by youth often involve more than one accused. Of the 51 incidents involving youth, more than half were committed by two or more individuals. Comparatively, of the 403 solved incidents committed solely by adults, 14% involved two or more accused.

In 2005, incidents involving youth were more likely to involve the killing of strangers (43%) than incidents with only adult accused (14%). As is the case historically, youth were more likely to kill other youth and young adults. Among solved homicides committed by youth in 2005, over half (56%) of victims were between 12 and 24 years of age compared to 20% of victims killed by adults.

Precipitating factors

Alcohol and/or drug consumption often associated with homicides

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide (Parker and Auerhahn, 1999). Among cases where it was known whether alcohol or drugs were a factor, police reported that the majority of accused persons (73%) and victims (57%) had consumed an intoxicant at the time of the homicide. Males were more likely than females to have used alcohol and/or drugs as both victims and accused persons (66% versus 34% for victims and 74% versus 65% for accused).

One in eight accused suspected to have a mental disorder

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on any suspected mental or developmental disorders (such as schizophrenia, manic depression or dementia) among accused persons. This information reflects police perceptions as to the mental condition of the accused person and is not necessarily supported by a medical or health professional's assessment. As such, it should be interpreted with caution.

Police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 13% of accused persons in 2005, similar to the percentage reported each year since 1997. Consistent with previous years, police suspected the presence of a mental disorder among female accused more often than male accused.

Nearly half of all homicide incidents occurred during another offence

Nearly half (45%) of the homicide incidents in 2005 (for which data were available) occurred during the commission of another offence that led to the homicide. Of these 224 incidents, the majority (164) were committed as a result of a violent offence: most commonly during an assault (97), or during a personal or commercial robbery (38).

At-risk occupations

Five police officers killed in 2005

The Homicide Survey collects information on homicides that are related to a victim's occupation (legal or illegal). Because of the inherent dangers associated with their occupations, there are certain people who may be at greater risk of being victims of violence and homicide. It is important to note that the following analysis includes only those victims whose deaths directly resulted from their profession, either partly or entirely. For example, if a police officer was killed because of a domestic dispute that was not related to his/her work, this homicide would not be counted as an occupation-related homicide.

It is relatively rare for a victim to be killed during the course of legal employment. Since this information became available from the Homicide Survey in 1997, there has been an average of 17 victims killed each year while “on-the-job”.

Since 1961, there have been 125 police officers killed in the line of duty (an average of almost 3 per year), including five in 2005. By comparison, preliminary figures for 2005 from the United States, with a population about eight times greater than Canada's, reported 55 police officers feloniously killed in the line of duty (U.S. Department of Justice, 2006). There were 10 other homicides that occurred as a result of the victim's legal employment, including taxi drivers and convenience store/gas station attendants.

Many victims involved in illegal “occupations”

Data from the Homicide Survey have shown that homicides are often associated with a victim's involvement in illegal activities, such as gang activities, drug dealing or trafficking and prostitution. In 2005, police reported a total of nine prostitutes killed, similar to the average number reported each year prior to the discovery of the homicides in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.¹⁵ Police were able to establish that three of the prostitutes were killed as a direct result of their profession, but were unable to make this determination for the other six.

There were another 139 homicides committed against persons working in other types of illegal “occupations” such as drug dealers, members of an organized crime group or a gang, 37 more than 2004.

Methodology

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961. Until 1974, cases of manslaughter and infanticide were not included in the survey. However, while the detailed characteristics of the manslaughter and infanticide incidents prior to 1974 are not available, the counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then sent to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unmodified from 1961 to 1990. In 1991, 1997, and again in 2005, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the Homicide Survey was revised and expanded.

The total count of homicides recorded each year equals the total number of homicides *known* by police departments and *reported* to the Homicide Survey during that year. Therefore, given that some homicides only become known to police long after they occur, some incidents that actually occurred in previous years are counted in the year they are reported by police to the Homicide Survey.

Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Glossary of terms

Accused

An accused person is someone against whom enough information exists to lay a charge in connection with a homicide incident. For the purposes of this report, the term “perpetrator” is used interchangeably with “accused”.

Gang-related homicide

Gang-related homicides are those reported by police to occur as a consequence of activities involving an organized crime group or street gang.

Organized crime group

An organized crime group consists of a static or fluid group of (two or more) individuals who communicate, co-operate, and conspire within an ongoing collective or network; and has, as one of its main purposes or activities, the facilitation or commission of offences undertaken or planned to generate material benefits or financial gain.

Street gang

A street gang is defined as a more or less structured group of adolescents, young adults and/or adults who use intimidation and violence to commit criminal acts on a regular basis, in order to obtain power and recognition and/or control specific areas of criminal activities.

Homicide

A homicide occurs when a person directly or indirectly, by any means, causes the death of a human being. Homicide is either culpable (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) or non-culpable (not an offence and, therefore, not included in the Homicide Survey). Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide and accidental or justifiable homicide (e.g. self-defence) are not included.

Homicide count

The homicide count reflects the number of homicide victims that become known to police and subsequently reported to the Homicide Survey in a given year. Since some homicides become known to police long after they occur, there are generally a few homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years.

15. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., police reported 5 homicides in 2004, 7 homicides in 2003 and 15 homicides in 2002 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

Homicide rate

This technique standardizes data to permit comparisons over time and for different population sizes. The homicide rate is based on the number of victims per 100,000 population.

Incident

An incident is defined as the occurrence of one (or more) criminal offence(s) during one single, distinct event, regardless of the number of victims. If there are multiple victims or multiple accused persons, the offences must occur at the **same location** and at the **same time** if they are to be included within the same incident. The incident count will normally be lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

Infanticide

Infanticide occurs when a female wilfully causes the death of her newly-born child (under one year of age), if her mind is considered disturbed from the effects of giving birth or from lactation.

Manslaughter

Manslaughter is culpable homicide that is not murder or infanticide.

Murder

A murder occurs when a person intentionally, by a wilful act or omission, causes the death of another human being, or means to cause bodily harm that the person knows is likely to cause death.

First degree murder occurs when:

- (a) it is planned and deliberate; or
- (b) the victim is a person employed and acting in the course of his/her work for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace (e.g. police officer, correctional worker); or
- (c) the death is caused by a person committing or attempting to commit certain serious offences (e.g. treason, kidnapping, hijacking, sexual assault, robbery and arson).

Second degree murder is all murder that is not first degree.

Solved homicide

A homicide is solved when an accused person has been identified by police and the incident has been cleared either by charge (laid or recommended) or "otherwise" (e.g. death of the accused by suicide or natural causes).

Table 1

Number of homicides, by province/territory, 1961 to 2005¹

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Y.T.	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada
1961	1	1	6	2	52	89	15	14	18	34	1	0	...	233
1962	0	1	10	8	62	76	19	13	18	55	3	0	...	265
1963	3	0	6	5	69	76	16	8	27	35	3	1	...	249
1964	5	0	13	5	52	81	16	20	25	32	1	3	...	253
1965	6	4	10	5	63	77	15	15	20	57	3	2	...	277
1966	3	1	9	6	56	71	17	12	27	48	0	0	...	250
1967	1	0	10	5	75	114	15	25	38	47	6	2	...	338
1968	5	0	9	5	102	104	28	23	25	73	1	0	...	375
1969	5	1	12	1	126	111	28	33	23	50	0	1	...	391
1970	1	1	15	8	141	115	29	24	42	78	6	7	...	467
1971	2	0	16	10	124	151	33	29	45	61	0	2	...	473
1972	2	2	14	11	157	141	36	28	37	88	3	2	...	521
1973	3	0	19	17	155	160	38	23	36	87	4	4	...	546
1974	3	2	8	21	169	160	42	31	44	107	5	8	...	600
1975	4	0	14	12	226	206	37	36	57	98	6	5	...	701
1976	6	2	25	14	205	183	31	34	68	88	4	8	...	668
1977	8	1	14	38	197	192	44	46	70	91	6	4	...	711
1978	9	4	13	27	180	182	39	32	84	85	2	4	...	661
1979	5	0	17	11	186	175	44	36	56	90	4	7	...	631
1980	3	1	12	9	181	158	31	31	55	105	2	4	...	592
1981	4	1	11	17	186	170	41	29	73	110	1	5	...	648
1982	6	0	12	13	190	184	35	39	70	109	2	7	...	667
1983	6	0	13	11	190	202	40	33	75	108	1	3	...	682
1984	6	0	15	14	198	190	43	30	54	110	2	5	...	667
1985 ⁴	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	...	704
1986	4	0	15	12	156	139	47	26	64	89	3	14	...	569
1987	5	0	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	0	2	...	644
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	31	23	66	80	1	8	...	576
1989	5	1	16	18	215	175	43	22	67	86	2	7	...	657
1990	0	1	9	12	184	182	39	36	74	110	1	12	...	660
1991	10	2	21	17	181	245	42	21	84	128	0	3	...	754
1992	2	0	21	11	166	242	29	32	92	122	2	13	...	732
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	120	0	7	...	627
1994	4	1	19	15	126	192	29	24	66	113	3	4	...	596
1995	5	1	17	14	135	181	27	21	60	120	4	3	...	588
1996	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	0	4	...	635
1997	7	0	24	8	132	178	31	25	61	116	1	3	...	586
1998	7	1	24	5	137	156	33	33	64	90	3	5	...	558
1999	2	1	13	9	137	162	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	538
2000	6	3	15	10	150	156	30	26	59	85	2	1	3	546
2001	1	2	9	8	140	170	34	27	70	84	1	4	3	553
2002	2	1	9	9	118	178	36	27	70	126	0	4	2	582
2003	5	1	8	8	99	178	43	41	64	94	1	4	3	549
2004 ^r	2	0	14	7	111	187	50	39	86	113	7	4	4	624
2005	9	0	20	9	100	218	49	43	109	98	1	0	2	658

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. There are some homicides that are included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2

Homicide victim rates¹, by province/territory, 1961 to 2005

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Y.T.	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada	% change Canada
1961	0.22	0.96	0.81	0.33	0.99	1.43	1.63	1.51	1.35	2.09	6.84	0.00	...	1.28	...
1962	0.00	0.93	1.34	1.32	1.15	1.20	2.03	1.40	1.31	3.31	19.99	0.00	...	1.43	11.6
1963	0.63	0.00	0.80	0.82	1.26	1.17	1.69	0.86	1.92	2.06	20.01	3.89	...	1.32	-7.8
1964	1.04	0.00	1.72	0.82	0.93	1.22	1.67	2.12	1.75	1.83	6.69	11.18	...	1.31	-0.3
1965	1.23	3.69	1.32	0.81	1.11	1.13	1.55	1.58	1.38	3.17	20.57	7.29	...	1.41	7.5
1966	0.61	0.92	1.19	0.97	0.97	1.02	1.77	1.26	1.85	2.56	0.00	0.00	...	1.25	-11.4
1967	0.20	0.00	1.32	0.81	1.28	1.60	1.56	2.61	2.55	2.42	39.97	6.89	...	1.66	32.8
1968	0.99	0.00	1.17	0.80	1.72	1.43	2.88	2.40	1.64	3.64	6.65	0.00	...	1.81	9.2
1969	0.97	0.90	1.55	0.16	2.11	1.50	2.86	3.44	1.48	2.43	0.00	3.22	...	1.86	2.8
1970	0.19	0.91	1.92	1.28	2.34	1.52	2.95	2.55	2.63	3.67	35.25	21.21	...	2.19	17.8
1971	0.38	0.00	2.01	1.56	2.02	1.92	3.30	3.11	2.70	2.72	0.00	5.49	...	2.15	-1.8
1972	0.37	1.76	1.75	1.70	2.54	1.77	3.59	3.04	2.18	3.82	14.89	5.16	...	2.34	8.9
1973	0.55	0.00	2.34	2.59	2.49	1.98	3.77	2.52	2.09	3.68	18.91	9.82	...	2.43	3.5
1974	0.55	1.72	0.98	3.16	2.70	1.95	4.12	3.41	2.51	4.38	23.73	19.45	...	2.63	8.4
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	3.57	2.48	3.61	3.92	3.15	3.92	27.39	11.67	...	3.03	15.1
1976	1.07	1.69	2.99	2.03	3.20	2.17	3.00	3.65	3.64	3.47	17.80	18.05	...	2.85	-6.0
1977	1.42	0.83	1.67	5.46	3.06	2.26	4.24	4.87	3.59	3.54	26.27	8.96	...	3.00	5.2
1978	1.59	3.29	1.54	3.86	2.79	2.12	3.75	3.36	4.15	3.25	8.42	8.84	...	2.76	-8.0
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.88	2.02	4.24	3.75	2.67	3.38	16.67	15.31	...	2.61	-5.5
1980	0.52	0.81	1.41	1.27	2.78	1.81	3.00	3.20	2.51	3.83	8.22	8.64	...	2.41	-7.4
1981	0.70	0.81	1.29	2.41	2.84	1.93	3.96	2.97	3.18	3.90	4.18	10.51	...	2.61	8.1
1982	1.04	0.00	1.40	1.84	2.89	2.06	3.34	3.95	2.96	3.79	8.17	14.14	...	2.66	1.7
1983	1.04	0.00	1.50	1.54	2.88	2.23	3.77	3.29	3.14	3.72	4.23	5.88	...	2.69	1.2
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.99	2.07	4.01	2.95	2.26	3.73	8.36	9.51	...	2.60	-3.1
1985 ⁴	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	...	2.72	4.6
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.33	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.96	12.26	25.60	...	2.18	-20.0
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	...	2.43	11.7
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.37	...	2.15	-11.7
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.69	2.69	7.38	12.27	...	2.41	12.0
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.91	3.34	3.60	20.37	...	2.38	-1.1
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	0.00	4.92	...	2.69	12.9
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.34	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.64	20.86	...	2.58	-4.1
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.84	3.36	0.00	11.04	...	2.19	-15.3
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	10.10	6.15	...	2.06	-6.0
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.18	13.14	4.52	...	2.01	-2.4
1996	1.25	0.74	1.93	1.20	2.13	1.69	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.23	0.00	5.93	...	2.14	6.9
1997	1.27	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.59	2.73	2.46	2.16	2.94	3.15	4.44	...	1.96	-8.6
1998	1.30	0.74	2.58	0.67	1.88	1.37	2.90	3.24	2.21	2.26	9.63	7.44	...	1.85	-5.6
1999	0.37	0.73	1.39	1.20	1.87	1.41	2.28	1.28	2.07	2.74	3.25	2.46	7.46	1.77	-4.4
2000	1.14	2.20	1.61	1.33	2.04	1.34	2.61	2.58	1.96	2.10	6.57	2.47	10.91	1.78	0.5
2001	0.19	1.46	0.97	1.07	1.89	1.43	2.95	2.70	2.29	2.06	3.32	9.80	10.67	1.78	0.2
2002	0.39	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.58	1.47	3.12	2.71	2.25	3.06	0.00	9.64	6.96	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.06	1.32	1.45	3.70	4.12	2.03	2.26	3.27	9.47	10.29	1.73	-6.6
2004 ^r	0.39	0.00	1.49	0.93	1.47	1.51	4.27	3.92	2.68	2.69	22.69	9.33	13.48	1.95	12.6
2005	1.74	0.00	2.13	1.20	1.32	1.74	4.16	4.33	3.35	2.30	3.23	0.00	6.67	2.04	4.5

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

1961 to 1970: Final intercensal estimates.

1971 to 1995: Revised intercensal from 1971 to 1995.

1996 to 2000: Final intercensal estimates.

2001/2002: Final postcensal estimates.

2003/2004: Updated postcensal estimates.

2005: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3

Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area

Census Metropolitan Area ¹ (CMA)	2005 ²			2004 ^{3r}			Average 1995 to 2004	
	Population ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁵	Population ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁵	Number of victims	Rate ⁵
500,000+ population								
Toronto	5,306,912	104	1.96	5,218,847	94	1.80	81	1.71
Montréal ⁶	3,675,155	48	1.31	3,632,340	63	1.73	70	2.02
Vancouver ⁷	2,156,509	62	2.88	2,131,960	57	2.67	53	2.63
Calgary	1,061,524	26	2.45	1,049,678	20	1.91	15	1.57
Edmonton ⁶	1,024,946	44	4.29	1,010,938	34	3.36	24	2.49
Ottawa ⁸	876,798	11	1.25	873,316	10	1.15	10	1.19
Québec	720,787	5	0.69	715,335	6	0.84	8	1.17
Winnipeg	698,791	26	3.72	694,593	34	4.89	21	3.08
Hamilton ⁹	697,239	11	1.58	691,112	9	1.30	11	1.74
Total	16,218,661	337	2.08	16,018,119	327	2.04	293	1.96
100,000 to less than 500,000 population								
Kitchener	485,248	7	1.44	477,885	6	1.26	5	1.01
London	471,033	14	2.97	467,918	5	1.07	5	1.03
St. Catharines-Niagara	434,347	14	3.22	432,565	7	1.62	6	1.35
Halifax	380,844	10	2.63	379,248	9	2.37	7	1.99
Victoria	336,030	2	0.60	332,779	5	1.50	6	1.94
Oshawa	333,617	1	0.30	326,629	6	1.84	2	0.81
Windsor	333,163	5	1.50	331,308	4	1.21	6	1.97
Gatineau ¹⁰	284,963	3	1.05	281,229	1	0.36	4	1.33
Saskatoon	244,826	9	3.68	243,144	8	3.29	6	2.49
Regina	201,435	8	3.97	200,634	10	4.98	6	3.21
St. John's	181,527	2	1.10	179,334	1	0.56	2	1.14
Abbotsford ¹¹	162,907	4	2.46	161,516	7	4.33	5	3.03
Greater Sudbury	160,912	2	1.24	160,932	0	0.00	3	1.59
Kingston ^{11,12}	154,389	5	3.24	154,168	0	0.00	3	1.64
Sherbrooke	148,225	0	0.00	147,132	0	0.00	2	1.14
Saguenay	147,071	1	0.68	147,957	2	1.35	1	0.75
Trois-Rivières	145,567	0	0.00	144,782	1	0.69	2	1.04
Saint John	145,363	0	0.00	145,173	1	0.69	1	0.94
Thunder Bay	124,262	3	2.41	124,821	0	0.00	2	1.81
Total	4,875,729	90	1.85	4,839,154	73	1.51	68	1.52
CMA totals	21,094,390	427	2.02	20,857,273	400	1.92	360	1.86
< 100,000 population	11,176,117	231	2.07	11,117,090	224	2.01	215	1.93
Canada	32,270,507	658	2.04	31,974,363	624	1.95	576	1.88

^r revised

1. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police service.

2. A total of 13 homicides were reported and included in 2005 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Montréal; 1 in Toronto; 1 in Kitchener; 1 in Edmonton; 3 in Vancouver; and 5 in areas < 100,000 population.

3. A total of 21 homicides were reported and included in 2004 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Montréal; 1 in Edmonton; 6 in Vancouver; and 12 in areas < 100,000 population.

4. Population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2004 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Estimates have been revised and adjusted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to correspond to police boundaries.

5. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

6. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2005.

7. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in the Vancouver CMA total for 2004 which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

8. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

9. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2004.

10. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

11. Abbotsford and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. Average number and rate are calculated from 2001 to 2004.

12. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution and 1 that occurred in a halfway house in 2005.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4

Homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of the 30 largest municipal police services

Police Service	2005			2004 ^r		
	Number Population ¹	of victims	Rate ²	Number Population ¹	of victims	Rate ²
Toronto CMA* Police Services³						
Toronto Police	2,607,637	79	3.03	2,613,479	64	2.45
Peel Regional Police	1,148,445	12	1.04	1,108,252	15	1.35
York Regional Police	922,487	10	1.08	885,972	13	1.47
Montréal CMA* Police Services³						
Montréal Police	1,873,813	35	1.87	1,873,071	43	2.30
Longueuil Police	389,071	2	0.51	387,500	4	1.03
Laval Police	370,368	8	2.16	365,556	6	1.64
Vancouver CMA* Police Services³						
Vancouver Police	584,701	20	3.42	581,133	25	4.30
Surrey (RCMP**) Police	393,256	21	5.34	385,980	10	2.59
Burnaby (RCMP**) Police	204,320	4	1.96	203,053	2	0.98
Richmond (RCMP**) Police	173,429	6	3.46	173,177	6	3.46
Other Large Municipal Police Services						
Calgary Police	970,797	24	2.47	953,236	16	1.68
Ottawa Police	832,550	11	1.32	829,588	10	1.21
Edmonton Police	718,788	37	5.15	709,984	29	4.08
Winnipeg Police	649,921	25	3.85	646,704	34	5.26
Durham Regional Police ⁴	575,201	1	0.17	563,153	6	1.07
Québec Police	530,618	5	0.94	528,242	6	1.14
Hamilton Regional Police	519,878	10	1.92	519,281	9	1.73
Waterloo Regional Police	485,248	7	1.44	477,885	6	1.26
Halton Regional Police ⁴	443,402	3	0.68	429,578	2	0.47
Niagara Regional Police	434,347	14	3.22	432,565	7	1.62
London Police	359,447	14	3.89	357,586	5	1.40
Gatineau-Métro Police	245,629	2	0.81	230,833	1	0.43
Windsor Police	221,879	5	2.25	221,568	4	1.81
Halifax Regional Police	213,242	10	4.69	212,346	7	3.30
Saskatoon Police	203,032	9	4.43	202,279	8	3.95
Regina Police	182,459	8	4.38	182,092	10	5.49
St. John's (RNC***) Police	181,527	2	1.10	179,334	1	0.56
Greater Sudbury Police	160,912	2	1.24	160,932	0	0.00
Sherbrooke Regional Police	148,225	0	0.00	147,132	0	0.00
Saguenay Police	147,071	1	0.68	147,957	2	1.35

^r revised

* Census Metropolitan Area

** Royal Canadian Mounted Police

***Royal Newfoundland Cons

1. Police service population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2004 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

3. Only the largest police services are listed under the Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver CMA's and do not necessarily represent all of the police services in those CMAs.

4. Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5

Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1995 to 2005

Year	Shooting		Stabbing		Beating		Strangulation/ Suffocation		Shaken baby syndrome ¹		Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	
	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%
1995	176	29.9	183	31.1	121	20.6	70	11.9	...	...	20	3.4
1996	212	33.4	195	30.7	131	20.8	59	9.3	...	...	8	1.3
1997	193	32.9	168	28.7	115	19.6	53	9.0	6	1.0	30	5.1
1998	151	27.1	186	33.3	125	22.4	61	10.9	6	1.1	12	2.2
1999	165	30.7	143	26.6	125	23.2	55	10.2	7	1.3	11	2.0
2000	184	33.7	149	27.3	128	23.4	40	7.3	13	2.4	5	0.9
2001	171	30.9	171	30.9	122	22.1	47	8.5	8	1.4	8	1.4
2002	152	26.1	182	31.3	126	21.6	67	11.5	8	1.4	9	1.5
2003	161	29.3	142	25.9	121	22.0	64	11.7	8	1.5	12	2.2
2004 ^r	173	27.7	205	32.9	136	21.8	63	10.1	6	1.0	13	2.1
2005	222	33.7	198	30.1	145	22.0	45	6.8	12	1.8	7	1.1

Year	Poisoning		Vehicle ¹		Other ²		Unknown		Total	
	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%
1995	6	1.0	...	...	6	1.0	6	1.0	588	100.0
1996	6	0.9	...	...	12	1.9	12	1.7	635	100.0
1997	8	1.4	6	1.0	2	0.3	5	0.9	586	100.0
1998	6	1.1	3	0.5	2	0.4	6	1.1	558	100.0
1999	5	0.9	13	2.4	4	0.7	10	1.9	538	100.0
2000	4	0.7	14	2.6	1	0.2	8	1.5	546	100.0
2001	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9	8	1.4	553	100.0
2002	3	0.5	7	1.2	6	1.0	22	3.8	582	100.0
2003	6	1.1	6	1.1	7	1.3	22	4.0	549	100.0
2004 ^r	8	1.3	6	1.0	1	0.2	13	2.1	624	100.0
2005	5	0.8	4	0.6	3	0.5	17	2.6	658	100.0

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Data became available in 1997.

2. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, starvation/dehydration and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 6

Homicides involving firearms, by region

Region	2005		2004 ¹		Average 1995 to 2004	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Atlantic	16	0.68	6	0.26	9	0.37
Quebec	37	0.49	30	0.40	53	0.71
Ontario	84	0.67	55	0.44	52	0.44
Manitoba	11	0.93	13	1.11	5	0.45
Saskatchewan	9	0.91	4	0.40	4	0.44
Alberta	30	0.92	23	0.72	16	0.53
British Columbia	35	0.82	40	0.95	34	0.85
Territories ²	0	...	2	...	1	...
Canada	222	0.69	173	0.54	174	0.57

... figures not applicable

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2004 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2. Rates are not calculated for the Territories due to small populations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 7

Homicides involving firearms, by type of firearm, Canada, 1995 to 2005

Year	Type of Firearm													
	Handgun		Rifle/Shotgun		Fully automatic firearm		Sawed-off rifle/shotgun		Firearm-like weapons ¹		Unknown type		Total	
	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	Homicides involving firearm as a % of total homicides
1995	95	54.0	64	36.4	2	1.1	15	8.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	176	29.9
1996	107	50.5	81	38.2	8	3.8	16	7.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	212	33.4
1997	99	51.3	77	39.9	2	1.0	10	5.2	0	0.0	5	2.6	193	32.9
1998	70	46.4	51	33.8	12	7.9	14	9.3	0	0.0	4	2.6	151	27.1
1999	89	53.9	58	35.2	6	3.6	6	3.6	2	1.2	4	2.4	165	30.7
2000	107	58.2	58	31.5	4	2.2	11	6.0	0	0.0	4	2.2	184	33.7
2001	110	64.3	46	26.9	3	1.8	7	4.1	2	1.2	3	1.8	171	30.9
2002	98	64.5	40	26.3	3	2.0	6	3.9	0	0.0	5	3.3	152	26.1
2003	110	68.3	32	19.9	2	1.2	13	8.1	0	0.0	4	2.5	161	29.3
2004 ^r	112	64.7	37	21.4	2	1.2	15	8.7	0	0.0	7	4.0	173	27.7
2005	128	57.7	55	24.8	7	3.2	11	5.0	5	2.3	16	7.2	222	33.7
Average 1995 to 2004	100	57.4	54	31.3	4	2.5	11	6.5	0	0.2	4	2.1	174	30.2

1. Firearm-like weapons include (nail gun, pellet gun, etc.)

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8

Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship¹, Canada

Relationship type (Victims killed by)	2005		2004 ^r		Average 1995 to 2004	
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
Family Relationship						
Spousal Relationship						
Husband (legal)	23	4.8	27	5.7	23	5.0
Husband (common-law)	21	4.4	21	4.4	22	4.8
Husband (separated and divorced, legal) ²	10	2.1	15	3.2	18	3.9
Husband (separated, common-law)	8	1.7	...	...	...	...
Wife (legal)	1	0.2	3	0.6	5	1.1
Wife (common-law)	9	1.9	8	1.7	8	1.7
Wife (separated and divorced, legal) ²	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.4
Wife (separated, common-law)	1	0.2	...	...	...	...
Same-sex spouse ^{3, 4}	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Ex-same-sex spouse ^{3, 4}	0	0.0	...	...	...	...
Total Spousal	74	15.5	75	15.8	79	17.1
Non-Spousal Relationship						
Father ⁵	12	2.5	21	4.4	27	5.8
Mother ⁵	8	1.7	15	3.2	14	3.0
Son/Daughter ⁵	27	5.6	18	3.8	19	4.1
Sibling	14	2.9	11	2.3	9	1.9
Other family relation ⁶	21	4.4	23	4.8	20	4.3
Total Non-Spousal	82	17.2	88	18.5	89	19.2
Total Family	156	32.6	163	34.2	168	36.3
Acquaintance						
Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate (current or former)	16	3.3	24	5.0	19	4.1
Close friend	37	7.7	34	7.1	30	6.5
Neighbour	24	5.0	10	2.1	17	3.7
Authority figure ³	3	0.6	1	0.2	2	0.4
Business relationship (legal)	9	1.9	10	2.1	11	2.4
Criminal relationship ⁷	58	12.1	41	8.6	38	8.2
Casual acquaintance	86	18.0	118	24.8	102	22.0
Total Acquaintance	233	48.7	238	50.0	219	47.3
Stranger	86	18.0	73	15.3	69	14.9
Unknown relationship	3	0.6	2	0.4	7	1.5
Total solved homicides	478	100.0	476	100.0	463	100.0
Unsolved homicides	180	...	148	...	114	...
Total homicides	658	...	624	...	577	...

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

2. Includes spouses separated from a common-law relationship prior to and including 2004.

3. Authority figure and same-sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, the averages are calculated from 1997 to 2004.

4. Separate variables for Same-sex spouse and Ex-same-sex spouse were created in 2005.

5. Includes biological, adopted, step and foster relationships.

6. Includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc. related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.

7. Include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients, loan sharks, gang members, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 9

Victims of spousal homicide by region

Region	2005		2004 ^r		Average 1995 to 2004	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number ²	Rate ¹
Atlantic	5	0.39	4	0.39	4	0.32
Quebec	12	0.30	21	0.52	18	0.43
Ontario	22	0.33	21	0.32	25	0.40
Manitoba	5	0.84	6	1.01	4	0.65
Saskatchewan	3	0.59	6	1.18	5	0.84
Alberta	14	0.75	8	0.47	10	0.62
British Columbia	13	0.56	5	0.22	12	0.51
Territories ³	0	...	4	...	2	...
Canada	74	0.43	75	0.43	79	0.47

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses (includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older). Population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2004 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2. Excludes 6 same sex spousal homicides due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.

3. Rates are not calculated for the Territories due to small populations.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 10

Children (<12 years) killed by parents¹, Canada, 1995 to 2005

Year	Total number of child victims	Number of child victims killed by parents	Parent-child homicides as a % of all solved homicides	Actual number of accused in parent-child homicides			
				Father	Step-Father	Mother	Step-Mother
1995 ^r	53	36	7.3	23	2	11	2
1996 ^r	53	41	7.7	23	6	15	1
1997 ^r	65	52	11.1	24	7	23	1
1998 ^r	55	47	10.4	27	4	16	2
1999 ^r	36	27	6.4	15	4	10	0
2000 ^r	39	27	6.4	13	5	9	0
2001 ^r	39	30	6.6	14	2	14	1
2002 ^r	44	31	6.6	20	4	9	0
2003 ^r	33	24	5.6	9	4	11	1
2004 ^r	37	27	5.7	8	6	14	0
2005	33	13	2.7	1	4	7	1
Average 1995 to 2004	45	34	7.4	18	4	13	1

^r revised

1. The number of child victims killed by parents does not necessarily equal the actual number of accused parents in parent-child homicides due to incidents involving multiple victims and/or multiple accused.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 11

Gang-related homicides, by region, 1995 to 2005

Year	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Territories	Canada	Victims of gang-related homicides as a % of all homicides
1995	0	13	0	3	0	1	4	0	21	3.6
1996	1	13	3	4	0	2	6	0	29	4.6
1997	1	17	1	2	0	1	6	0	28	4.8
1998	1	31	6	2	2	2	7	0	51	9.1
1999	0	30	5	1	0	4	5	0	45	8.4
2000	4	38	11	3	1	5	10	0	72	13.2
2001	0	23	19	4	1	4	10	0	61	11.0
2002	0	7	19	4	0	9	7	0	46	7.9
2003	1	15	38	6	4	8	12	0	84	15.3
2004 ^r	0	18	14	5	4	15	16	0	72	11.5
2005 ¹	1	24	31	5	5	25	16	0	107	16.3
Average 1995 to 2004	1	21	12	3	1	5	8	0	51	8.7

^r revised

1. Starting in 2005, gang related homicides include "suspected" gang-related. Of the 107 homicides linked to organized crime or street gangs in 2005, 74 were reported as determined and 33 were suspected

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 12

Victims of homicide and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1995 to 2005

Year	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1995 ^{r1}	393	66.8	195	33.2	588	511	87.2	75	12.8	586
1996 ^{r2}	435	68.5	200	31.5	635	520	88.4	68	11.6	588
1997 ^{r1}	381	65.0	205	35.0	586	445	85.7	74	14.3	519
1998 ^r	381	68.3	177	31.7	558	474	87.9	65	12.1	539
1999 ^r	365	67.8	173	32.2	538	445	90.3	48	9.7	493
2000 ^{r1}	397	72.7	149	27.3	546	422	88.1	57	11.9	479
2001 ^{r1}	392	70.9	161	29.1	553	449	87.5	64	12.5	513
2002 ^{r2}	376	64.6	206	35.4	582	481	89.2	58	10.8	539
2003 ^r	391	71.2	158	28.8	549	482	88.6	62	11.4	544
2004 ^r	425	68.1	199	31.9	624	530	89.5	62	10.5	592
2005	480	72.9	178	27.1	658	539	90.0	60	10.0	599
Average 1995 to 2004	394	68.3	182	31.7	576	476	88.3	63	11.7	539

^r revised

1. Total of accused excludes two persons whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

2. Total of accused excludes one person whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 13

Youth (12-17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1995 to 2005

Year	Number of accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹			Total youth as % of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1995	53	15	68	4.33	1.29	2.85	11.6
1996 ^r	50	3	53	4.03	0.26	2.19	9.0
1997 ^r	45	11	56	3.59	0.93	2.29	10.8
1998 ^r	55	3	58	4.35	0.25	2.36	10.8
1999 ^r	37	9	46	2.92	0.75	1.86	9.3
2000	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	9.0
2001	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	6.2
2002	33	9	42	2.55	0.73	1.67	7.8
2003 ^r	49	10	59	3.77	0.81	2.33	10.8
2004 ^r	39	5	44	2.98	0.40	1.72	7.4
2005	56	9	65	4.26	0.72	2.53	10.9
Average 1995 to 2004	43	8	50	3.35	0.62	2.02	9.3

^r revised

1. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

1995: Revised intercensal.

1996 to 2000: Final intercensal estimates.

2001/2002: Final postcensal estimates.

2003/2004: Updated postcensal estimates.

2005: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

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Outcomes of Probation and Conditional Sentence Supervision: An Analysis of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

by Sara Johnson

Highlights

- On an average day in May 2003, the rate of involvement in community correctional supervision per 100,000 adult population ranged from 426 in Alberta to 760 in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Probation comprised the majority of admissions to community supervision (80%) and conditional sentences made up the remainder (20%).
- "Attend counselling" and "Abstain from use of drugs and/or alcohol" were optional conditions most frequently attached to a community corrections program.
- Overall, 25% of offenders in Saskatchewan breached a period of community supervision (i.e., failed to complete a period of probation and/or conditional sentence), while 37% of those in Alberta were breached.
- Aboriginal persons had higher rates of breach of a period of community supervision compared to non-Aboriginal persons in both Saskatchewan (32% versus 16%) and Alberta (52% versus 33%). Compared to their male counterparts, Aboriginal females and non-Aboriginal females had lower breach rates in both Saskatchewan and Alberta.
- Offenders who had a sexual offence, a *Criminal Code* traffic offence, or a common assault as their most serious offence had lower rates of breach of a period of community supervision in Saskatchewan and Alberta; offenders who had a break and enter or theft and possession of stolen property had higher rates of breach than the overall rate.
- According to results from Saskatchewan, as the number of criminogenic needs¹ increased, the rate of breach of a period of community supervision increased.
- Among all probation orders completed in Alberta between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2005, 34% were breached. The rate of breach for conditional sentences in Alberta during this time frame was 25%.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan, persons with community corrections only involvements had lower rates of re-involvement in correctional services within two years of release from correctional supervision than those whose involvement included a period of custody.
- A history of breaching probation or a conditional sentence was associated with higher rates of re-involvement.



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Introduction

To date, little is known about the rate and extent of community correctional supervision breaches and re-involvement in the correctional system following completion of community supervision. Given that most correctional supervision in Canada is community-based, a description of characteristics of community corrections and the outcomes of community corrections is essential to the development of policy and programs.

This *Juristat* profiles community corrections in five provinces – Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.² The focus of analysis is provincial/territorial community correctional supervision of probation and conditional sentences (see Text box 1).³ A key objective of this *Juristat* is to examine outcome indicators such as breach of conditions of supervision and re-involvement following release from community corrections.⁴

Text box 1: Adult correctional services in Canada

The adult correctional system is comprised of custodial and community supervision. Custodial supervision is imprisonment, including sentenced custody, and non-sentenced custody such as remand and other temporary detention (e.g., due to immigration holds, or to parole violation) (see *Glossary* at the end of this report for more information on custodial sentences). Community correctional supervision includes probation, conditional sentences, community service orders, restitution orders, community release from custody (day parole, parole and statutory release), and bail supervision.

Adults sentenced to less than two years in custody, held in remand or other temporary detention, as well as those under certain community correctional supervision sanctions (i.e., probation, conditional sentences, restitution orders, community service orders), on bail supervision or provincial parole are the responsibility of provincial and territorial correctional service agencies. In general, those who have been sentenced to two years or more of custody are under the supervision of Correctional Service of Canada (federal system), including those who have been conditionally released (i.e., day parole, full parole, statutory release) from custody.

Community corrections in Canada: Legislation and administration

Probation

Probation is a disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order. Mandatory conditions are required on all probation orders and include: keep the peace and be of good behaviour, appear before the court when required to do so, and notify the court or probation officer in advance of any change in name or address or any change in employment or occupation (*Criminal Code* of Canada, s.732.1 (2)). The maximum period of probation is three years.

The court may also direct the offender to comply with the conditions of a probation order, in addition to sentencing the offender to a fine, conditional sentence or a period of sentenced custody of two years or less in duration. When the court imposes a sentence of imprisonment of ninety days or less, the court also may order that the sentence be served intermittently, and that the offender must comply with the conditions of a probation order when not in confinement. For example, an offender may be serving an intermittent sentence on weekends, and be supervised in the community under a probation order during weekdays.

Conditional sentence

A conditional sentence is a disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specific conditions.

Although a conditional sentence is served in the community, the policy surrounding the monitoring of conditional sentences is generally more stringent than probation (Hendrick, Martin and Greenberg 2003). Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less so than custody. A conditional sentence can be applied where the court is satisfied that serving a sentence in the community would not endanger the safety of the community.

A conditional sentence includes the following mandatory conditions: report to a supervisor within two working days, appear before the court when required to do so, keep the peace and be of good behaviour in the community, notify the court or probation officer in advance of any change in name or address or any change in employment or occupation, and remain within the jurisdiction of the court unless written permission to go outside that jurisdiction is obtained from the court or the supervisor (*Criminal Code of Canada*, s. 742.3(1)).

Optional conditions

In addition to standard conditions of probation and conditional sentence supervision that are described above, a judge may impose other optional conditions that respond to the particular circumstances of the offender and/or the offence. These may include such things as attend counselling and/or treatment, abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol, no or restricted contact with certain persons, community service work, restitution/compensation, reside in specific place and/or house arrest, curfew, etc.

These conditions are generally determined at sentencing and may be revised by the court if requested by the probation officer, offender or the prosecutor. Furthermore, for conditional sentences, if a breach of a condition occurs, a change in the optional conditions may be imposed (see *Breaches* section below for more information).

Breaches

A key objective of the probation officer is to 'guide and direct the offender in complying with the conditions of the Court Order' (Saskatchewan Corrections and Public Safety 2002). The probation officer is thus responsible for ensuring that the offender understands the conditions and abides by them. The probation officer then monitors the offender's activities within the community. Should a probation officer become aware that the offender has, without lawful excuse, failed to uphold the obligations of the Court (i.e., has breached a condition of supervision), the probation officer has the responsibility of informing the Prosecutor, and, depending on the situation, filing a violation report. Depending on the situation, such as the severity of the violation, there may be occasion where a violation report is not submitted, but where other actions are taken, such as reviewing the case plan or increasing offender monitoring (Saskatchewan 2002). If a violation report is filed, it is up to the court system to determine the outcome. The possible outcomes are somewhat different for probation compared to conditional sentences.

Breach of probation

If an offender breaches a condition of probation without reasonable excuse, he/she is guilty of an offence (*Criminal Code of Canada*, s.733.1 (1)). In the event of a new offence, the court may revoke the probation order and, in the case of a suspended sentence, impose any sentence that could have been imposed if the passing of the sentence had not been suspended. Alternatively, the court may make changes to optional conditions as deemed desirable by the court (*Criminal Code of Canada*, s. 733.2(5) (d), (e)).

Breach of conditional sentence

In the event of a breach of condition of a conditional sentence, the offender may be incarcerated and compelled to appear before the court within thirty days of the offender's arrest or summons. Depending on the circumstances surrounding the breach, the court may decide to:

- (a) take no action;
- (b) change the optional conditions;
- (c) suspend the conditional sentence order and direct
 - (i) that the offender serve in custody a portion of the unexpired sentence, and
 - (ii) that the conditional sentence order resume on the offender's release from custody, either with or without changes to the optional conditions; or
- (d) terminate the conditional sentence order and direct that the offender be committed to custody until the expiration of the sentence.

If a breach occurs, the conditional sentence stops running between the issuance of the warrant, arrest without warrant, or service of process, and the time when the adjudication of the breach is complete (*Criminal Code of Canada*, s. 742.6).⁵ Unlike the breach of probation, breach of a conditional sentence is not a *Criminal Code* offence.

Methods, concepts, and definitions

The analysis in this *Juristat* is based on two years of data from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) for the provincial adult correctional services of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta (community corrections only) for the years 2003/2004 to 2004/2005.⁶ These data comprise all adults involved in correctional services at any time during this two-year period from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2005, and include persons who started involvement prior to April 1, 2003, as well as persons whose involvement extended beyond March 31, 2005. Data on prior correctional involvements, including those of other administrative jurisdictions, that ended prior to April 1, 2003 are not available, nor are those that began after March 31, 2005. Therefore, all references to the first involvement or first admission to correctional involvement only pertain to involvements during this time frame that were supervised directly by the provincial correctional authority in the jurisdictions examined.

Text box 2: Bail supervision in Saskatchewan

Bail supervision, also referred to as pre-trial supervision or judicial interim release, is a supervised recognizance order that provides an alternative to custodial remand for persons awaiting trial and/or sentencing. For the purpose of this *Juristat*, Saskatchewan was able to provide bail supervision data. Saskatchewan was among seven provinces and territories that indicated that they offered pre-trial supervision to adults universally throughout the province or territory (Calverley and Beattie 2005). In Saskatchewan¹ program staff prepare reports for the court to assist in making decisions regarding the granting of bail. If a release is recommended, appropriate conditions are suggested for the Court's approval. In certain circumstances, offenders may require intensive supervision, which may include the use of electronic monitoring.²

The number of adults in bail supervision in Saskatchewan on an average day has been increasing for the past nine years, almost tripling, from 179 in 1996/1997 to 526 in 2004/2005 (Text table 1).³ Furthermore, the number of admissions to bail supervision has more than doubled (+140%) since 1996/1997 and increased by more than 50% since 2000/2001. The increased use of bail supervision in Saskatchewan coincides with rising numbers of custodial remands (Beattie 2006).

Data from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) showed 2,198 admissions to bail supervision in Saskatchewan between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2005.⁴ In total, there were 1,986 individuals who had one or more periods of bail supervision during this time frame, with the bulk of them (91%) having one. Among these individuals, where Aboriginal Identity was known, 72% were Aboriginal and 28% were non-Aboriginal. This distribution is similar to that observed for other types of community corrections in Saskatchewan (see Text table 3).

Consistent with the legislation, most bail supervision admissions were for violent offences.⁵ For example, almost half of the admissions to bail supervision (45%) were for crimes against persons, mostly common assault (20%) and major assault (13%). Another 22% were for property crimes, primarily theft and possession of stolen property (13%). Among admissions who had completed periods of bail supervision, a mean of 116 and a median of 89 days were spent on bail supervision, with values ranging from 1 to 672 days. The longest mean time served on bail supervision occurred for those with violent offences, such as manslaughter or attempt murder (mean = 192), followed by sexual offences (mean = 171). Offences against the administration of justice (mean = 85) were associated with the shortest periods of bail supervision.

1. Please see the Saskatchewan Department of Corrections and Public Safety website, www.cps.gov.sk.ca for more information.
2. Among the other jurisdictions providing data for this report, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, do not offer bail supervision services (Calverley and Beattie 2005).
3. Among jurisdictions reporting bail supervision admissions and/or average counts, with the exception of a small decrease in average counts in British Columbia, all reported increases during the 1996/1997 to 2004/2005 time frame. For more information, see D. Calverley and K. Beattie 2005.
4. This included adults who had started a period of bail supervision between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2005.
5. Persons charged with the most serious indictable offences (*Criminal Code* of Canada, section 469) are not eligible for bail supervision.

Text table 1

Adult average count and admissions to bail supervision, 1996/1997 to 2004/2005, Saskatchewan

	Average count		Admissions	
	Total	Percent change	Total	Percent change
1996/1997	179	...	453	...
1997/1998	198	10.6	489	7.9
1998/1999	240	21.2	612	25.2
1999/2000	304	26.7	763	24.7
2000/2001	315	3.6	704	-7.7
2001/2002	337	7.0	736	4.5
2002/2003	441	30.9	909	23.5
2003/2004	508	15.2	1,113	22.4
2004/2005	526	3.5	1,085	-2.5
Percent change 1996/1997 to 2004/2005	...	193.9	...	139.5
Percent change 2000/2001 to 2004/2005	...	67.0	...	54.1

... not applicable

Note: Average count values for 1996/1997 to 2002/2003 were provided from the Community Corrections special study. Admissions values for 1996/1997 to 1999/2000 were provided from the Community Corrections special study. All other values were provided from the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Community Corrections special study, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

It is important to note that all jurisdictions included in this report provided data regarding custodial and community correctional programs with the exception of Alberta. Alberta was only able to provide community corrections data and, as such, Alberta was excluded from some analyses.

Involvement as a unit of measure

This study examines the correctional case histories of individuals according to *involvements*, defined as a continuous period of direct supervision within a specific jurisdiction's correctional system. This continuous period of time may include more than one type of correctional service (e.g., sentenced custody, conditional sentence, probation, etc.) as long as there are no breaks in supervision.

Period of community supervision

Within an involvement there may be one or more continuous periods of time during which an individual is solely involved in probation, conditional sentence and/or bail supervision, which is defined as a *period of community supervision*.⁷ Although legal hold statuses may change, no breaks in involvement in community corrections may occur. If a continuous period of community supervision is interrupted by a period of time in custody, multiple periods of community supervision are counted.

Community corrections in five provinces

Rate of involvement in community corrections differs by province and by Aboriginal Identity

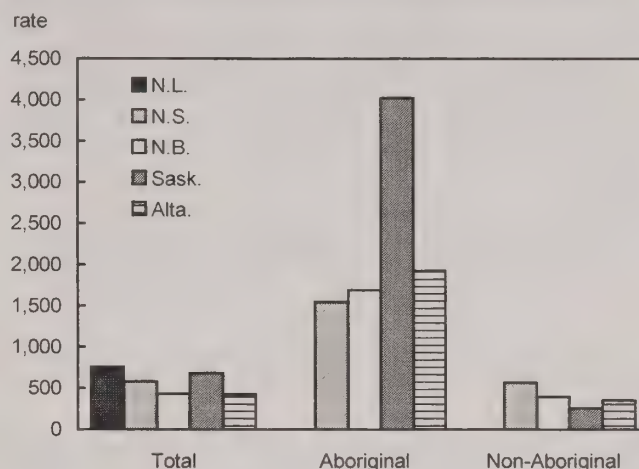
The rate at which adults are involved in community corrections (probation and/or conditional sentence) on an average day in May 2003 per 100,000 adult population⁸ is presented in Figure 1. Overall, the rate ranged from a low of 426 per 100,000 adult population in Alberta to a high of 760 in Newfoundland and Labrador. The rate in New Brunswick (430 per 100,000 adult population) was similar to Alberta while the overall rates for Nova Scotia (582 per 100,000 adult population) and Saskatchewan (681 per 100,000 adult population) were higher than that of New Brunswick, but lower than the rate in Newfoundland and Labrador.⁹

Rates of involvement in community corrections were further broken down by Aboriginal Identity for all provinces with available data (Figure 1). As can be seen, Aboriginal adults had higher rates than non-Aboriginal adults in all provinces. A particularly large difference was observed in Saskatchewan where Aboriginal persons had a rate that was 16 times higher than that of non-Aboriginal persons, 4,021 per 100,000 Aboriginal adults were involved in community corrections compared to 254 per 100,000 non-Aboriginal adults. Aboriginal rates were three times higher than non-Aboriginal rates in Nova Scotia, four times higher in New Brunswick, and five times higher in Alberta.

In comparison, the rates of involvement in provincial custodial corrections are considerably lower. Rates of persons in custody per 100,000 population ranged from 67 in New Brunswick,

Figure 1

Rate of involvement in community corrections per 100,000 adult population on an average day in May 2003, by Aboriginal Identity, selected jurisdictions



Note: Aboriginal Identity data were available for less than half of the cases in Newfoundland and Labrador and therefore these data are not reported.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey; Demography Division; Census of Population.

to 191 in Saskatchewan.¹⁰ Once again, Aboriginal adults were found to have higher rates of involvement in custodial corrections than their non-Aboriginal counterparts in all jurisdictions with available data, with the greatest difference observed in Saskatchewan.

Conditional sentences more common in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan than in the three other provinces studied

Counts of probation and conditional sentences can be viewed in two ways: first as the total number of sentences commenced (aggregate admissions), and secondly as the total number of individuals serving them. The total number of aggregate admissions in the five jurisdictions is presented in Text table 2 and includes all situations where a continuous period of probation and/or conditional sentence began. Therefore, individuals who have more than one admission during the study period were counted more than once. As can be seen in the table, probation comprised the majority of admissions to community supervision (80%) and conditional sentences made up the remainder (20%). However, there were differences across the five provinces with proportions ranging from 70% on probation in Saskatchewan to 85% in Alberta.

Aboriginal representation higher for conditional sentences than probation in all jurisdictions except Alberta

The high level of Aboriginal representation in the correctional system as compared to their representation in the population

Text box 3: The use of probation and conditional sentences in Canada

In 2003/2004, according to adult criminal court data, a term of probation was the most frequently imposed sanction (46% of guilty cases) (Thomas 2004). The percentage of guilty cases receiving probation has increased in the past ten years in the eight reporting jurisdictions¹ from 37% in 1994/1995 to 46% in 2003/2004. In 2003/2004, cases where 'crimes against the person' was the most serious offence were most likely to include a term of probation – 76% of guilty cases, compared to 55% of offenders found guilty of 'crimes against property'. Of the 43,857 guilty 'crimes against the person' cases that received probation in 2003/2004, 28% also received a prison term.

In Canada, on an average day, approximately 98,800 persons were serving a term of probation accounting for the majority of persons in the adult correctional system (65%) in 2004/2005 (Beattie, 2006). These numbers have been relatively consistent over time.

According to data from adult criminal courts survey, 6% of guilty cases were given a conditional sentence in 2003/2004.² Among convictions, some offences were more likely to receive conditional sentences, in particular, 35% of drug trafficking convictions, 32% of other sexual offences, 22% of sexual assault, 16% of other property crimes, and 15% of fraud.

Within the adult correctional system in 2004/2005, 9% of adults, representing an average of almost 14,000 adults, were serving a conditional sentence on an average day. This was 2% higher than in 2003/2004 (Beattie, 2006).

1. Reporting jurisdictions to the Adult Criminal Court Survey with all data in the time series available include: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec (excluding Quebec's municipal courts), Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon.
2. In 2003/2004, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec and therefore calculations exclude Quebec

Text table 2

Number of aggregate admissions to probation or conditional sentence, by jurisdiction, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

	Probation		Conditional sentence		Total community corrections ¹
	number	% of community corrections	number	% of community corrections	number
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,440	80.8	816	19.2	4,256
Nova Scotia	6,203	82.7	1,301	17.3	7,504
New Brunswick	3,536	74.0	1,245	26.0	4,781
Saskatchewan	6,962	70.0	2,979	30.0	9,941
Alberta	15,672	84.9	2,795	15.1	18,467
Total	35,813	79.7	9,136	20.3	44,949

1. Includes probation and conditional sentences only, and excludes any other types of community correctional services.

Note: Excludes 22 (0.02%) cases where individuals were less than 18 years of age at the start of the legal status.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

is an area of ongoing concern. In April 1996, the *Criminal Code* was amended with the addition of Section 718.2 which requires a court to consider the following principle: that

“e) all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances, should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders.”

The representation of Aboriginal people in sentenced custody across Canada, however, has increased since 2000/2001, and continues to remain higher than their representation in probation or conditional sentences. Aboriginal people represent approximately 3% of the adult population. In 2004/2005, according to data from the Adult Correctional Services Survey, Aboriginal people represented 22% of admissions to provincial/

territorial sentenced custody, 16% of probation admissions and 18% of admissions to conditional sentences. In comparison, in 2000/2001, Aboriginal people represented 20% of sentenced custody admissions, 16% of probation and 18% of conditional sentence admissions.¹¹

Text table 3 presents the number of adults¹² involved in probation, conditional sentence and total community corrections by Aboriginal Identity among jurisdictions participating in this study. Consistent with earlier results, among four provinces, Aboriginal representation was higher for conditional sentences than for probation in all provinces except Alberta. As a proportion of individuals in any community correctional program, the percentage who were serving a conditional sentence was higher for Aboriginal people than for non-Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia (26% versus 18%), New

Brunswick (33% versus 29%) and Saskatchewan (37% versus 29%). Contrary to these results, 12% of Aboriginal people in Alberta who had served any community correctional program had a conditional sentence, compared to 17% of non-Aboriginal offenders. The percentage of individuals in any community correction program who were serving a probation order was slightly higher for Aboriginal people compared to non-Aboriginal people in Alberta (91% versus 86%) but was slightly lower in Saskatchewan (75% versus 79%) and approximately equal in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Almost all community supervision cases had one or more optional conditions imposed

As indicated earlier, both conditional sentences and probation have mandatory conditions and may have optional conditions. Typically, optional conditions are imposed by the court with the goal of protecting society and facilitating the offender's reintegration into the community. To this end, the purposes underlying optional conditions are often consistent with several of the purposes of sentencing such as rehabilitation and reparation, while also assuring the protection of society through an appropriate level of monitoring.

Text table 3

Number of adults involved in probation and/or conditional sentences, by jurisdiction, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

	Probation			Conditional sentence			Any community correctional program ¹	
	number	percent	% of community corrections ²	number	percent	% of community corrections ³	number	percent
Newfoundland and Labrador ⁴	3,385	...	91.9	796	...	21.6	3,683	...
Aboriginal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Aboriginal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nova Scotia	6,051	...	90.4	1,257	...	18.8	6,695	...
Aboriginal	251	4.1	89.3	74	5.9	26.3	281	4.2
Non-Aboriginal	5,800	95.9	90.4	1,183	94.1	18.4	6,414	95.8
New Brunswick	3,453	...	82.9	1,221	...	29.3	4,167	...
Aboriginal	251	7.3	83.7	100	8.2	33.3	300	7.2
Non-Aboriginal	3,181	92.7	82.8	1,116	91.8	29.0	3,844	92.8
Saskatchewan	6,757	...	77.0	2,906	...	33.1	8,773	...
Aboriginal	3,968	65.2	75.0	1,966	71.6	37.1	5,294	66.3
Non-Aboriginal	2,122	34.8	78.9	779	28.4	29.0	2,689	33.7
Alberta	15,285	...	87.3	2,784	...	15.9	17,516	...
Aboriginal	3,213	21.7	90.9	418	15.4	11.8	3,535	20.8
Non-Aboriginal	11,614	78.3	86.3	2,291	84.6	17.0	13,464	79.2
Total⁵	31,546	...	84.9	8,168	...	22.0	37,151	...
Aboriginal	7,683	25.3	81.6	2,558	32.3	27.2	9,410	26.3
Non-Aboriginal	22,717	74.7	86.0	5,369	67.7	20.3	26,411	73.7
Total⁶	34,931	...	85.5	8,964	...	22.0	40,834	...

... not available

1. Includes individuals who were serving a probation and/or conditional sentence during the study period. Individuals may be serving more than one type of community correctional program during the time frame and therefore individuals may be represented in both probation and conditional sentence counts, but will only be counted once in the 'Any Community Correctional Program' column.

2. This value is calculated as the number of individuals who were serving one or more terms of probation during the study period divided by the total number of individuals who were serving a probation and/or conditional sentence (see footnote 1).

3. This value is calculated as the number of individuals who were serving one or more conditional sentence terms during the study period divided by the total number of individuals who were serving a probation and/or conditional sentence (see footnote 1).

4. Aboriginal identity was available for only 36% of individuals on probation, 36% on conditional sentence, and 37% of those on any community correctional program, and therefore, data are not reported.

5. Excludes Newfoundland and Labrador.

6. Includes Newfoundland and Labrador.

Note: Jurisdictional totals include cases where Aboriginal identity was not known.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

In all jurisdictions, almost all involvements containing community correctional supervision included one or more optional conditions.¹³ Less than 1% of involvements in Nova Scotia and Alberta had no conditions, compared to just over 1% in New Brunswick, and 6% in Saskatchewan.

“Attend counselling” and “abstain from use of drugs and/or alcohol” were the most frequent optional conditions

The most common specific optional condition was “attend counselling” in Alberta (79%), Nova Scotia (73%) and Saskatchewan (34%) (Text table 4).¹⁴ For New Brunswick, the most frequent condition was “abstain from drugs and alcohol” (33%), which was the second most utilized condition in Alberta (50%) and Saskatchewan (24%) and third most common in Nova Scotia (40%). In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the second most commonly attached condition was “no or restricted contact with certain persons”, 46% in Nova Scotia and 27% in New Brunswick. Other conditions that were frequently attached included “community service work” in Nova Scotia (19%), New Brunswick (21%) and Alberta (27%); “reside in specific place/house arrest” in New Brunswick (22%) and Alberta (21%); and “area restriction” in Nova Scotia (20%), Saskatchewan (20%) and Alberta (34%).¹⁵

Breaches of community corrections

The ICSS permits the capture of information on probation and conditional sentence breaches where the documentation of these violations is integrated into the jurisdiction’s case management information system. Only in Alberta was it possible to relate breaches to specific periods of supervision.¹⁶ However, by looking at continuous periods of community supervision, during which an individual may be supervised on multiple concurrent or consecutive orders of probation and/or conditional sentences, and the occurrence of a breach during that period, it was possible to determine a breach rate for Saskatchewan in addition to Alberta. This measure provides a general synopsis of types and conditions of supervision and whether or not a breach had taken place.

The occurrence of a breach during a period of community supervision completed between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2005 was determined for Saskatchewan and Alberta. It should be noted that if there were multiple periods of community supervision per person, only the first one was examined for a breach outcome. The counting of a breach would include any breach that occurred, regardless of the type of community correctional program breached - probation or conditional sentence. The average length of community supervision did not significantly differ between Saskatchewan (mean = 374 days, median = 362.5 days) and Alberta (mean = 375 days, median = 364 days). Thus, differences in

Text table 4

Types of optional conditions on probation and/or conditional sentence orders¹ per involvement, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta

	Nova Scotia		New Brunswick		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	number	% of cases ²	number	% of cases ²	number	% of cases ²	number	% of cases ²
Total number of cases with one or more conditions³	10,552	...	6,452	...	10,613	...	26,344	...
Type(s) of conditions								
Attend counseling	7,672	72.7	716	11.1	3,649	34.4	20,864	79.2
Abstain from drugs and alcohol	4,209	39.9	2,139	33.2	2,569	24.2	13,231	50.2
No or restricted contact with certain persons	4,869	46.1	1,745	27.0	...	...	7,857	29.8
Community service work	2,024	19.2	1,361	21.1	1,103	10.4	7,051	26.8
Driving prohibition	1,116	10.6	18	0.3	...	...	371	1.4
Restitution/compensation order	1,337	12.7	1,244	19.3	904	8.5	4,438	16.8
Attend work and/or school	521	4.9	295	4.6	538	5.1	6,405	24.3
Reside in specific place/house arrest	1,622	15.4	1,436	22.3	38	0.4	5,561	21.1
Curfew	1,375	13.0	300	4.6	373	3.5	3,789	14.4
Area restriction	2,093	19.8	821	12.7	2,083	19.6	8,903	33.8
Other ⁴	7,676	72.7	5,770	89.4	10,608	100.0	13,144	49.9

... not available

- Includes cases where there was one or more probation and/or conditional sentence legal statuses on an involvement. Individuals may have more than one involvement containing a probation or conditional sentence legal status during the time period and therefore may be represented more than once in the table.
- Percent of cases where there was at least one or more conditions on the involvement with one or more probation and/or conditional sentence legal statuses.
- Among involvements containing a period of community correctional supervision, less than one percent in Nova Scotia and Alberta, 1% in New Brunswick, and 6% in Saskatchewan had no conditions. Missing values were excluded.
- Other includes victim surcharge, prohibition/seizure/forfeiture, peace bond, provide support/care dependent, and any other conditions not listed in the table. It should be noted that because of the specific variations in some conditions, there may be some differences in how these conditions may be categorized.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Text box 4: Previous research: Outcomes of community corrections

Since the severity of sentence received is often affected by the length and type of criminal history, and given that criminal history is an often-cited risk factor for repeated involvement in the criminal justice system, offenders who are serving community correctional sentences may be 'lower risk' offenders than those receiving custodial sentences (Thomas, Hurley and Grimes 2002). Indeed, current research has indicated that in general, offenders released from community corrections only involvements had lower rates of re-involvement in the correctional system than those who had served custodial sentences (Johnson 2005). Subsequent analyses (Brzozowski, Taylor-Butts and Johnson 2006) found that two factors that predict re-involvement in correctional services among persons released from correctional supervision in Saskatchewan in 1999/2000 are release from custody (as opposed to release from a community correctional program), and custody and community involvement (as opposed to community-only involvement).

In fact, according to meta-analyses of the effect of sanctions on recidivism, when quality of research design was taken into account, those studies in which research was rated as strong¹ showed that incarceration was associated with a slight increase in recidivism (Gendreau, Goggin, Cullen and Andrews 2000; Smith, Goggin, and Gendreau 2002). In addition, a meta-analysis examining the effect of treatment on recidivism rates found that appropriate services delivered in a community setting, as opposed to a residential setting such as a correctional institution, reduced the likelihood of recidivism (Andrews, Zinger, Hoge, Bonta, Gendreau and Cullen 1990).

Breach rates

To date, little is known about the rate and extent to which offenders in Canada are breached for violating the conditions of their community supervision. For example, one early study found that among conditional sentence terminations in 2000/2001 in three provinces (Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan), 22% were breached, with breach rates ranging from 11% in Ontario to 57% in Saskatchewan (Hendrick, Martin and Greenberg 2003; Johnson 2003). Furthermore, among those who breached, almost 50% served part or all of the remainder of the conditional sentence in custody, thus accounting for 11% of conditional sentence terminations in 2000/2001.

Similarly, little is known about breaches of the conditions of probation in Canada. However, there are some sources of information that indirectly address the issue of probation success. For example, the Annual Report of the Alberta Solicitor General (2005) indicated that in 2004/2005, the successful completion of adult probation dispositions was 60%. In this case, an unsuccessful termination occurred when: the disposition was closed on or prior to the expiration date of the probation order as a result of the offender incurring a new criminal charge that resulted in a period of incarceration and the probation order expiring or that will expire during the period of incarceration; failing to report to a probation officer and a warrant being issued under the *Criminal Code* of Canada; having a probation violation outstanding on the expiration date; or incurring a

new *Criminal Code* or other federal statute charge that resulted in a conviction during the period or probation supervision. Note that under this definition, probationers who may have been breached during their probation, but otherwise completed the supervision with no outstanding violations, are considered successful.

One American study found that the success rate (successful exits or completions) for probation was approximately 60% across all years from 1995 to 2004 (Glaze and Palla 2005). This is similar to the rate of success provided above. A study from England found that among the 823 probationers whose supervision outcome was known, 21% were breached at court (Hearnden and Millie 2003).

Relationship between history of breaches and outcome

One of the basic tenets of predicting behaviour is that the best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour. In this fashion, it would be expected that those who have breached the conditions of community correctional programs in the past would be more likely to breach in the future and/or commit crime. In fact, many risk/need assessment tools, such as the Statistical Information on Recidivism, Level of Service Inventory, and the Wisconsin Risk and Needs Assessment, include 'previous breach of parole/probation' as an item on the scale (Andrews and Bonta 1998).

A recent study in England (Hearnden and Millie 2003) found that breach of probation was related to reconviction rates. Those breached at court were more likely to be reconvicted (77%) than those who completed their orders successfully (35%) or had orders terminated early for good behaviour (23%). Furthermore, there was a greater likelihood of reconviction as the number of unacceptable absences (breaches) increased. However, the speed of reconviction did not appear to depend on the number of unacceptable absences (breaches).

One result from a recent CCJS study speaks to this issue (Johnson 2005). When examining re-involvement within four years of release according to the most serious offence of the first involvement, it was found that those who had an offence against the administration of justice as their most serious offence² had a re-involvement rate of 50%, which was higher than the 45% overall rate reported.

1. Studies designated as higher quality were those with random assignment or comparison group design where the two were similar on at least five valid risk prediction domains (e.g., age, criminal history, antisocial values, etc.) (Smith, Goggin and Gendreau 2002).
2. Most serious offence (MSO): Offences are ranked according to the Courts Program Most Serious Offence Index, based on frequencies of charges and their sentences in adult provincial criminal court. This classification of offences into generic categories is done using the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey violation coding classification structure. The Integrated Correctional Services Survey uses these indices to determine and classify offences for which an offender is sentenced or being held in pre-trial supervision or bail supervision. Out of the 15 most serious offence categories used in the study, *offences against the administration of justice* was ranked 10th. See Johnson, S. (2005) for more information.

breach rates between Saskatchewan and Alberta were not influenced by any systematic differences between the two jurisdictions in time at risk.

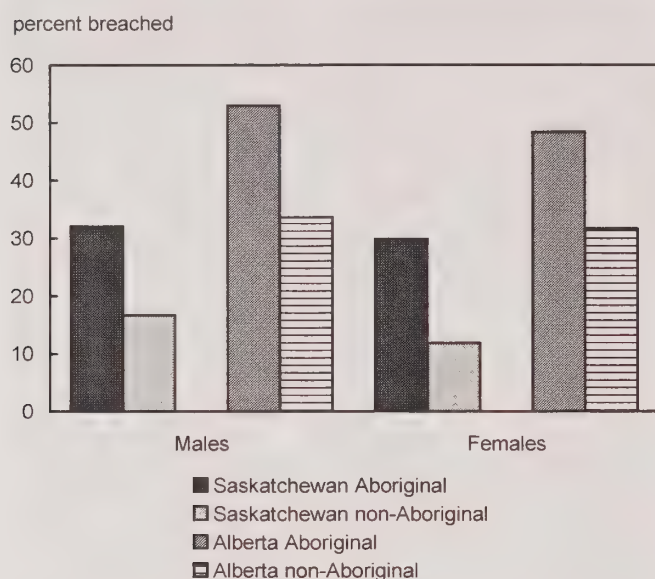
Higher breach rates among Aboriginal offenders¹⁷

Overall, a breach occurred for 25% of persons who had concluded a period of community supervision in Saskatchewan, and for 37% of those in Alberta. Aboriginal offenders showed higher rates of breach than non-Aboriginal offenders in both Saskatchewan (32% versus 16%) and Alberta (52% versus 33%) (Text table 5).

Rates of breach were compared between males and females. Overall, females had breach rates approximately equal to males in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. However, compared to their male counterparts, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal females had lower breach rates in both Saskatchewan and Alberta (Figure 2). Aboriginal males in Saskatchewan had a breach rate almost double that of non-Aboriginal males (32% versus 17%), while Aboriginal females had a breach rate almost triple that of their non-Aboriginal counterparts (30% versus 12%). In Alberta, breach rates of Aboriginal adults were higher than that of their non-Aboriginal counterparts both for males (53% versus 34%) and females (48% versus 32%).

Figure 2

Periods of community supervision breached, by Aboriginal Identity and sex, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

When comparing breach rates across age and Aboriginal Identity, it was found that as age increased, the rate of breach decreased (Text table 5). For example, the overall rate of breach in Saskatchewan was 32% for offenders who were 24 years of age or younger, compared to 26% for 25 to 34 year olds, 22% for 35 to 44 year olds, and 12% for those who were 45 years of age or older. A similar trend was observed in Alberta, although the rates were generally higher. The rate of breach, however, was consistently higher for Aboriginal offenders than their non-Aboriginal counterparts across all age groups.

Text table 5

Percent of completed periods of community supervision breached, by Aboriginal Identity and age, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

	Saskatchewan			Alberta		
	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
	percent					
Under 25 years	32.1	37.8	22.0	42.7	57.0	39.7
26 to 34 years	25.8	30.4	17.3	40.5	54.2	36.9
35 to 44 years	21.7	28.3	13.1	32.1	46.7	28.5
45 and over	12.4	17.5	8.3	20.7	33.2	19.2
Total	25.5	31.6	16.2	36.8	52.0	33.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Breach rates lowest for sexual offences and traffic offences

The relationship between the most serious offence for which the offenders were under community supervision and breach rates is examined in Text table 6. Offenders who had a sexual offence, a *Criminal Code* traffic offence, a common assault, or a drug offence had lower rates of breach in both provinces, whereas offenders who had a break and enter, theft and possession of stolen property, or an offence against the administration of justice as their most serious offence had higher rates of breach than the overall rate. In Alberta, offenders who had a robbery (56%) or a break and enter (55%) as their most serious offence had the highest breach rate, while in Saskatchewan the highest breach rates occurred for those with a theft and possession of stolen property (38%) or a break and enter (38%) as their most serious offence.

The higher the number of needs, the higher the breach rate in Saskatchewan

Risk/need assessments are actuarial assessment tools that assist probation officers in determining need areas to be targeted for intervention and monitoring. They also aid in determining the level of supervision required to reduce the risk of reoffending. Previous research has indicated that the number of criminogenic needs rated at medium/high is related to re-involvement rates (Johnson 2005). Breach rates for offenders in Saskatchewan, where data were available, were examined in relation to the number of criminogenic needs rated as medium/high (see *Glossary* for definitions).¹⁸

Figure 3 presents the breach rate by number of needs assessed as medium/high. As the number of needs increased, the rate of breach increased. Although this finding held for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders, the rate was consistently higher for Aboriginal offenders. For example, three times as many Aboriginal offenders with two identified needs were breached compared to their non-Aboriginal counterparts (22% versus 7%). In addition, for non-Aboriginal offenders there were only modest differences in breach rates between zero to three needs, with larger increases for more than three needs and higher. Among Aboriginal offenders, however, there were larger incremental increases in breach rates for each number of needs category.

Text table 6

Percent of completed periods of community supervision breached, by most serious offence¹, Saskatchewan and Alberta, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

	Saskatchewan	Alberta
	percent	
Serious violent offences ²	25.9	32.8
Sexual offences ³	15.8	21.2
Robbery	33.7	55.6
Common assault	17.8	26.7
Other violent offences ⁴	18.7	31.3
Break and enter	38.3	54.6
Theft and possession of stolen property	38.5	47.6
Other property offences	26.0	42.9
Offences against the administration of justice ⁵	30.2	48.7
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	29.1	42.7
<i>Criminal Code</i> — traffic offences	15.1	22.5
Drug offences	15.8	27.5
Other offences ⁶	36.7	42.3
Total	25.5	36.8

1. Refers to the most serious offence existing on the relevant community portion of the involvement.

2. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major assault.

3. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, anal intercourse, bestiality, sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party or causing bodily harm, aggravated sexual assault.

4. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

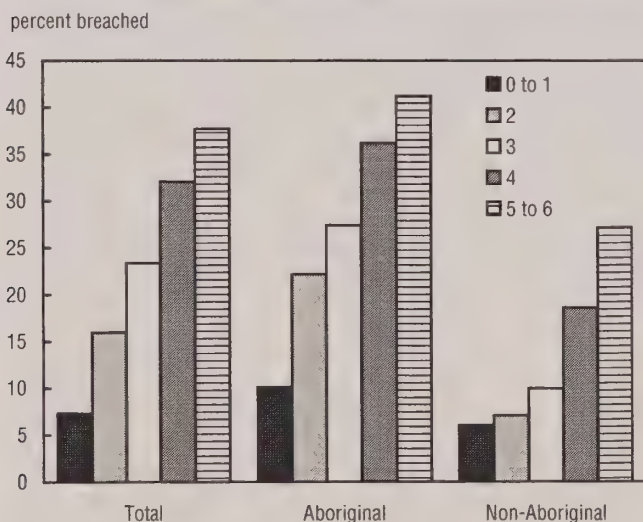
5. Caution should be taken when interpreting these results since this offence may in fact reflect that actual breach (outcome measure).

6. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, and municipal bylaw infractions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Figure 3

Periods of community supervision breached, by number of criminogenic needs, Saskatchewan, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Characteristics related to breach of probation in Alberta

One jurisdiction, Alberta, was able to provide information on the breach of a probation order while the offender is being supervised.¹⁹ In total, 14,439 adults had completed one or more periods of supervised probation between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2005. Between the start of the probation order and the end date, offenders had an average of 402 days and a median of 366 days.

Among these probationers, 34% (4,851) breached. Aboriginal adults had a higher rate of breach on probation than non-Aboriginal adults, 48% compared to 30%. While males and females had similar rates of breach overall, their rates differed when taking Aboriginal Identity into account. The breach rate for non-Aboriginal women was similar to that of their male counterparts (29% versus 30%) while the breach rate of Aboriginal women was lower than that of Aboriginal males (43% versus 49%). Among those who breached in Alberta, the most common conditions breached were the mandatory conditions of "notify of any change of address, place of employment, education, or training" (33%) and "report and be supervised" (28%).

Breach of "restitution/compensation order" condition most common

It is also important to examine the breach rate for specific mandatory and optional conditions among all cases where they were imposed in Alberta. Among the mandatory conditions,

Text table 7

Types of conditions imposed on probation and percent breached, Alberta, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

	Total — people with condition	Total — persons breaching condition
	number	percent
Type(s) of optional conditions		
Attend counseling	10,793	11.5
Abstain from drugs and alcohol	5,705	12.6
No or restricted contact with certain persons	3,504	10.4
Community service work	3,248	20.7
Driving prohibition	130	8.5
Restitution/compensation order	2,369	27.4
Attend work and/or school	3,023	14.9
Reside in specific place/house arrest	1,727	11.6
Curfew	394	14.5
Area restriction	3,631	10.8
Other	5,717	12.4
Types of mandatory conditions		
Report and be supervised	14,439	9.6
Keep the peace and be of good behaviour	14,439	0.7
Notify of any change of address, place of employment, education, or training	14,439	11.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

“notify of any change of address, place of employment, education, or training” (11%) and “report and be supervised” (10%) were the conditions most frequently breached (Text table 7). Among the optional conditions, the conditions most frequently breached were the “restitution/compensation order” (27%), the “community service work” (21%), the “attend work and/or school” (15%), and the “curfew” (14%) conditions.

Some differences between males and females and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults occurred regarding breach rates of specific conditions. For example, in comparison to females, males had higher breach rates on the “curfew” condition (16% versus 7%). A higher percentage of Aboriginal adults (26%) who had a “community service work” condition breached that condition than non-Aboriginal adults (20%). Similarly 35% of Aboriginal adults had a breach of “restitution/compensation order” condition compared to 26% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

Highest rates of breach of probation among robbery and break and enter offenders

Breach rates of completed periods of probation were further compared according to the most serious offence on the period of probation (Text table 8). As compared to the overall breach rate of 34%, those who had a robbery (56%), or break and enter (50%) as their most serious offence had higher rates of breach of probation. The lowest percentages breached were found for offenders with sexual offences (15%) and *Criminal Code* traffic offences (18%) as their most serious offence.

Breach of conditional sentence in four provinces

Conditional sentences have received extensive public attention since the relevant sections of the *Criminal Code* were enacted in 1996. Despite this, little is known about their outcomes. The following section examines breach outcomes of (1) any breach of a conditional sentence, and (2) admission to custody to serve some or all of the remainder of the conditional sentence in custody following a breach, for four provinces where data were available: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta. For conditional sentences, breaches of conditions may result in one of three actions: no action, a change in the conditions of the conditional sentence, or an order for the offender to serve some or all of the remainder of the conditional sentence in custody. In two jurisdictions, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, situations where offenders were admitted to custody to serve some or all of the remainder of the conditional sentence in custody were determined, while breach information (without knowing the outcome of the breach²⁰) was available for Nova Scotia, and Alberta.

The rate of breach in Nova Scotia and Alberta is presented in Text table 9. This refers to cases where the conditional sentence was recorded as not being successfully completed due to a violation of a condition or cases where a breach was indicated. The outcome of the breach, however, was not known and therefore these rates cannot be compared with the rates at which offenders are admitted to custody to serve some or all of the remainder of the conditional sentence. Overall, the percent of conditional sentences which were breached was

Text table 8

Percent of probation breached, by most serious offence, Alberta, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

	Completed probation	
	Completed cases	Breached ¹
	percent	
Serious violent offences ²	8.1	30.4
Sexual offences ³	2.0	14.9
Robbery	0.6	55.6
Common assault	22.6	28.4
Other violent offences ⁴	6.3	31.3
Break and enter	4.6	49.8
Theft and possession of stolen property	13.8	44.2
Other property offences	6.2	38.3
Offences against the administration of justice ⁵	6.3	42.8
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	14.0	39.0
<i>Criminal Code</i> — traffic offences	11.0	17.8
Drug offences	3.8	26.3
Other offences ⁶	0.4	42.2
Overall rate	...	33.6

... not applicable

1. Calculations exclude missing values.

2. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major assault.

3. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, anal intercourse, bestiality, sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party or causing bodily harm, aggravated sexual assault.

4. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

5. Caution should be taken when interpreting these results since this offence may in fact reflect that actual breach (outcome measure).

6. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, and municipal bylaw infractions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

22% in Nova Scotia and 31% in Alberta, with some notable differences across Aboriginal Identity and sex. Aboriginal persons consistently had higher rates of breach than their non-Aboriginal counterparts in Alberta across males and females. For example, in Alberta, 46% of Aboriginal persons with a conditional sentence had breached that conditional sentence compared to 28% of non-Aboriginal persons. Furthermore, Aboriginal males in Alberta breached their conditional sentences in 46% of cases, compared to 29% of non-Aboriginal males, while Aboriginal females had a breach rate of 46% compared to 26% for non-Aboriginal females.

Text table 9 also displays the rate at which offenders were admitted to custody as the result of a conditional sentence breach (suspension and/or revocation) in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. The overall rate was 39% in Saskatchewan and 23% in New Brunswick. When broken down by Aboriginal Identity, non-Aboriginal persons in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan had similar rates of admission to custody – 23% overall in New Brunswick and 28% in Saskatchewan. Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan had much higher rates of admission to custody due to a breach of conditional sentence than non-Aboriginal adults (47% versus 28%), while the rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in New Brunswick were similar (23% each).

Characteristics related to breach of conditional sentences in Alberta

As noted earlier, Alberta was able to provide information on the breach of a particular conditional sentence while the offender was being supervised on that conditional sentence. In total, 2,599 offenders completed a conditional sentence in Alberta between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2005. Offenders were supervised for an average of 391 days and a median of 364 days. Among these individuals, 25% had breached their conditional sentence.²¹ This breach rate was found to differ between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals, with 36% of Aboriginal adults breaching compared to 23% of non-Aboriginal adults. Overall, males and females were found to have similar breach rates. Among those who had breached, the most frequent type of mandatory condition breached was to "notify of any change of address, place of employment, education, or training" (44%).

Because not everyone is bound by all conditions, the rates of breach of specific conditions were then examined in the context of the frequency at which these conditions were imposed (Text table 10). Among mandatory conditions, which were imposed on all conditional sentences, the "notify of any change of address, place of employment, education, or training" was the most frequently violated condition (11%). The optional condition of "restitution/compensation order" had the highest breach rate (13%), followed by "community service work" (11%), "no/restricted contact with certain persons" and "abstain from drugs and alcohol" (10% each).

Text table 9

Conditional sentence outcomes, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, by Aboriginal Identity and sex, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

	Breached			Admitted to custody		
	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
	percent					
Nova Scotia	38.4	21.3	22.2	.	.	.
Male	36.8	21.0	21.8	.	.	.
Female	43.7 ¹	23.3	24.9	.	.	.
Alberta	46.1	28.2	30.6	.	.	.
Male	46.1	28.7	30.7	.	.	.
Female	46.2	26.1	30.4	.	.	.
New Brunswick	.	.	.	23.2	23.4	23.1
Male	.	.	.	24.2	23.5	23.4
Female	.	.	.	17.6 ¹	22.8	21.9
Saskatchewan	.	.	.	46.8	27.9	39.3
Male	.	.	.	49.1	29.2	40.9
Female	.	.	.	36.9	16.0	31.2

. not available for any reference period

1. Due to low cell counts, interpretation should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Text table 10

Types of conditions imposed on conditional sentences and percent breached, Alberta, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

Type(s) of optional conditions	Total — people with condition	Total — persons breaching condition
	number	percent
Attend counseling	1,838	9.2
Abstain from drugs and alcohol	1,737	9.6
No or restricted contact with certain persons	652	10.4
Community service work	1,177	11.1
Restitution/compensation order	345	13.3
Attend work and/or school	621	8.2
Reside in specific place/house arrest	645	8.7
Curfew	1,719	8.7
Area restriction	1,258	6.4
Other	1,310	8.5
Types of mandatory conditions		
Report and be supervised	2,599	2.8
Keep the peace and be of good behaviour	2,599	1.2
Notify of any change of address, place of employment, education, or training	2,599	10.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Highest rates of breach of conditional sentence among those with robbery and break and enter offences, lowest for sexual offences, traffic offences, and drug offences

The proportion of offenders serving a conditional sentence in Alberta who had breached their conditional sentence was compared across most serious offence profiles (Text table 11). Compared to the overall breach rate of 25% among

all conditional sentences, those who had a break and enter (41%) or robbery (39%) showed the higher rates of breach, while the lowest rates were observed for those who had a sexual offence (12%), *Criminal Code* traffic offence (18%), or a drug offence (22%) as their most serious offence. Given that 28% of adults supervised on conditional sentences in Alberta during this time frame had a drug offence as their most serious

Text table 11

Percent of conditional sentences breached, by most serious offence, Alberta, 2003/2004 to 2004/2005

	Completed conditional sentences	
	Completed cases	Breached ¹
	percent	
Serious violent offences ²	8.6	29.0
Sexual offences ³	5.8	12.2
Robbery	2.5	39.1
Common assault	5.0	28.9
Other violent offences ⁴	3.3	23.5
Break and enter	5.5	40.7
Theft and possession of stolen property	13.7	28.0
Other property offences	1.7	30.2
Offences against the administration of justice	3.3	27.1
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	15.8	23.0
<i>Criminal Code</i> — traffic offences	6.2	17.6
Drug offences	28.2	22.1
Other offences ⁵	0.4	27.3
Overall rate	...	25.0

... not applicable

1. Calculation excludes missing values.

2. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major assault.

3. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, anal intercourse, bestiality, sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party or causing bodily harm, aggravated sexual assault.

4. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

5. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, and municipal bylaw infractions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

offence, the relatively low overall rate of breach of conditional sentence may be explained, in part, by the lower rate observed for these offenders.

Re-involvement in correctional supervision

In this section, re-involvement in correctional services upon completion of a previous set of supervised obligations in the correctional system is examined. Unless otherwise specified, all analyses in this section include Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.²² Offenders released from correctional involvement between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004 were analyzed in terms of their rate of re-involvement within the same jurisdiction of release across various indices. Offenders had a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 24 months to become re-involved in correctional services. With the use of survival analysis or the fixed follow-up method of analysis, time at risk for re-involvement was taken into account (see Text box 5 for more information).

Involvement in community corrections associated with lower rates of re-involvement

In a recent CCJS report analyzing data from the ICSS (Johnson 2005), it was shown that various characteristics were related to re-involvement outcomes in Saskatchewan, such as Aboriginal identity, sex, age, criminogenic needs, type of correctional

involvement, etc. With the ability to analyze survey data from more provinces, this report expands upon the finding that persons who had been involved in only community corrections during their involvement had lower rates of re-involvement than those whose involvement included a period of custody. As can be seen in Figure 4, this finding held true with the addition of data from three other provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick). For example, twelve months following release from correctional supervision, approximately 11% of persons with community-only involvements were returned to correctional supervision, compared to just over 30% of those with custody-only (31%) or mixed community and custody (32%) involvements.²³

Upon examination of provinces separately, rates of return were consistently lowest for offenders who had participated in community corrections only, but some differences between rates of those with combined custody and community involvements and those with custody-only involvements were observed. Within twelve months following release from correctional supervision, the re-involvement rate of those with community and custody involvements was higher than that of custody-only involvements in New Brunswick (37% versus 31%) and Saskatchewan (37% versus 32%). In contrast, in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia, re-involvement rates were higher among those with custody-only involvements than community and custody involvements — 24% versus 19% in Newfoundland and Labrador, and 33% versus 29% in Nova Scotia, respectively.

Text box 5: Statistical methods of examining re-involvement

Survival analysis

Survival analysis is a statistical technique to assess the amount of time until a specified event (e.g., re-involvement in any correctional program) occurs while controlling for differences in follow-up periods. Survival analysis was designed for use with longitudinal data regarding the occurrence of events, and determines both whether or not and when an event is likely to occur (Allison 1995). It is useful for studying many different kinds of events in both the social and natural sciences. Survival analysis focuses on the time interval between two events or survival time (Wright 2000). Survival analysis is most often applied to the study of deaths and was originally designed for that purpose.

Survival analysis, using the Kaplan-Meier procedure, is employed in this *Juristat*. The Kaplan-Meier procedure is one of the most widely used method for estimating survivor functions¹, when censoring is present (Allison 1995). This technique can be thought of as an 'enhanced' frequency distribution table, where the distribution of survival times is divided into a certain number of time intervals. For each interval, the number and proportion of cases that entered the respective interval 'alive' (i.e., number not re-involved), the number and proportion of cases that failed in the respective interval² (i.e., number re-involved), and the number of cases that were lost or censored in the respective interval are computed. Censored data refers to persons who have reached the end of the pre-determined follow-up period but have not failed (i.e., have not become re-involved). This may be because a person never experiences the event in his or her lifetime (e.g., because he or she never returns to provincial correctional supervision in the same jurisdiction), or because the event had not occurred as of the end of the follow-up period (e.g., he or she does not return to provincial correctional supervision in the same jurisdiction as of the end of the follow-up period). Persons who are censored are removed from the calculation estimating the proportion of subjects who failed by a certain time interval. The amount of censoring increases as the end point of the study approaches and therefore, estimates calculated on the basis of observations late in the study are less stable.³

Survival analysis provides a number of benefits. First, it makes it possible to consider all cases without regard to length of time they can be followed-up. Second, it provides a visual examination of the data, showing the rate of failure (i.e., re-involvement) across time, so that groups that fail very quickly after release can be identified and compared to those that fail more slowly and over a longer period of time.

Individuals involved in correctional services were followed from the date at which they were released until they were re-involved in any correctional service or until the end of the follow-up period if they were not re-involved. The time to re-involvement in any correctional service was plotted on a survival curve. The slope of the curve demonstrates the rate of surviving without a re-involvement over time. Steep slopes

indicate that many offenders are failing within a relatively short period of time while more gradual slopes demonstrate that re-involvement is more steady and gradual over time. For ease of interpretation of survival analysis results, failure rates (i.e., re-involvement rates) are examined as opposed to survival rates (i.e., no re-involvement rates), which is the conventional method used in survival analysis. Survival analysis curves are therefore presented using a simple mathematical transformation (i.e., 1 minus the proportion surviving).

It is also possible to test the null hypothesis that the survivor functions are the same among sub-groups, such as those who had a period of community supervision in their first involvement versus those who didn't have a period of community supervision (i.e., that the survivor functions were obtained from the same population). This type of analysis was used throughout this *Juristat*.

Fixed follow-up

A second methodology to assess re-involvement in the correctional system is the fixed follow-up method which examines the presence or absence of an event (e.g., a re-involvement in correctional services) for a fixed period of time. That is, persons are followed forward from the date of release from correctional involvement until some fixed period of time after that release to determine whether or not they were re-involved in correctional services.

The main advantage of the fixed follow-up method is that it is easily understood. However, to be included in the analysis, subjects must be able to be followed for the full duration stipulated as the follow-up period. In comparison, survival analysis allows subjects with variable follow-up periods to be included, and statistically adjusts accordingly. Survival analysis, though, is a more complex analysis, requiring more extensive explanation of results. In addition, although survival analysis statistically adjusts for time at risk, results later in the follow-up period are less reliable due to censoring (see footnote 3).

1. The Kaplan Meier procedure uses the cumulative proportion surviving which is the cumulative proportion of cases surviving up to the respective interval. Since the probabilities of survival are assumed to be independent across the intervals, this probability is computed as a product of the probabilities of survival across all previous intervals. The resulting function is also called the survivorship or survival function (StatSoft Inc. accessed 2004).
2. The proportion failing is computed as the ratio of the number of cases failing in the respective interval, divided by the number of cases at risk in the interval. The number of cases at risk is the number of cases that entered the respective interval alive, minus half of the number of cases lost or censored in the respective interval. Conversely, the proportion surviving is computed as 1 minus the proportion failing.
3. Large numbers of censored values decrease the equivalent number of subjects exposed (at risk), making the life table estimates less reliable than they would be for the same number of subjects with less censoring (PROPHET StatGuide accessed 2004).

Community involvements, alone or in combination with custody, were further broken down in terms of the most serious community correctional program (conditional sentence followed by probation) and analyzed in relation to re-involvement outcomes. Among both community-only and community and custody involvements, those who had a conditional sentence were found to have slightly higher re-involvement rates than those who had a term of probation as their most serious community correctional program. For example, among those with community and custody involvements, 34% of those with a conditional sentence compared to 31% serving a period of probation were re-involved within twelve months following

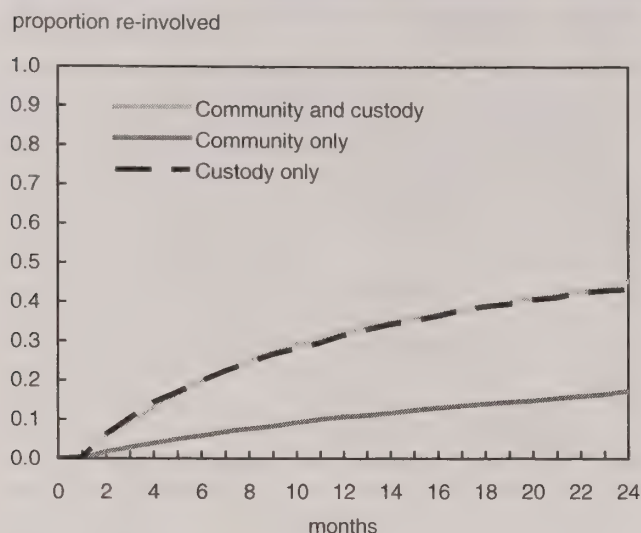
release, while among those with community-only involvements, the re-involvement rate within twelve months was 11% for conditional sentences and 10% for probation. Similar to the community and custody involvement results, for those offenders with custody-only involvements, 31% were re-involved within twelve months of release.

Higher rates of re-involvement among offenders with prior breaches of community corrections

Histories of breach of probation or breach of conditional sentence on the first involvement are examined in relation to re-involvement following release from correctional supervision.

Figure 4

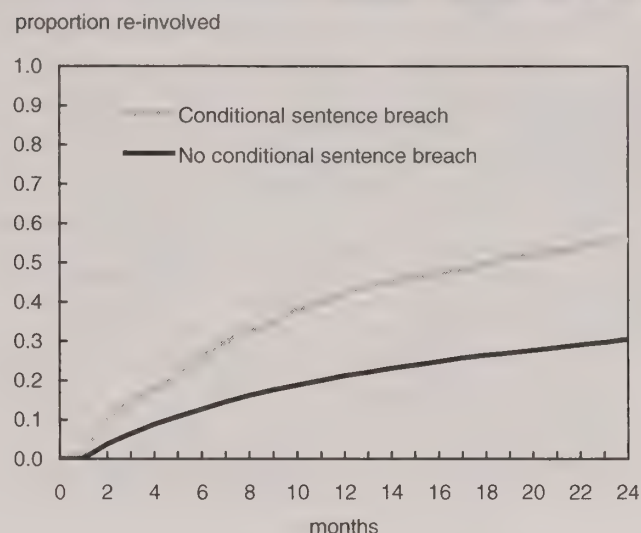
Cumulative proportion re-involved, 2003/2004 release cohort, to March 31, 2005, by type of involvement



Note: Includes Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Figure 5

Cumulative proportion re-involved, 2003/2004 release cohort, to March 31, 2005, by breach of conditional sentence history in first involvement



Note: Includes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

For a breach of probation, regardless of the type of correctional supervision, the occurrence of the offence of 'breach of probation' was detected through the Most Serious Offence fields in the ICSS. Breaches of conditional sentence on the first involvement were also examined as an indicator of breach history in relation to re-involvement outcomes. For breach of probation, it is important to note that an indication of a breach, although recorded in the first involvement may have occurred during the first involvement or during a previous involvement not contained in the analysis database. However, a history of breach of conditional sentence was related to a breach occurring within the first involvement only.

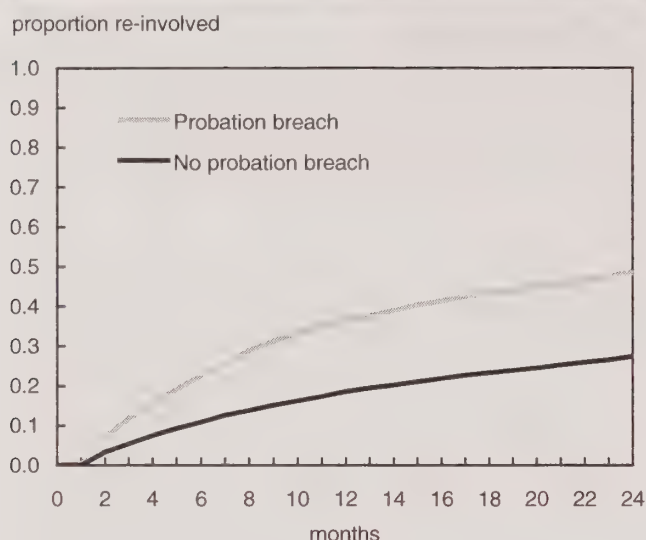
In this *Juristat*, rates of re-involvement have been analyzed for offenders who had a history of breach of community corrections recorded within the first involvement. Separate analyses compared those who had a history of conditional sentence or probation breach against those who didn't. Due to limitations in coverage, analysis was limited to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. As can be seen in the Figure 5, those with a history of conditional sentence breach had higher rates of return than those who didn't. For example, the rate of return within twelve months among those with a history of conditional sentence breach was double that of those without a breach history, 42% compared to 21%.

Similarly, offenders who had a history of breaching probation indicated in their first involvement were more likely to become re-involved in correctional supervision. Within twelve months of release, offenders with a history of breach of probation were twice as likely to return as those who didn't (36% versus 18%) (Figure 6). For those who had a probation breach history, half of all returns occurred within the first 6 months of release, while, in comparison, half of the returns for those without a history of probation breach occurred within 8 months of release.

In order to examine the effect of breach history on re-involvement while accounting for the type of first involvement (custody-only, community-only, community and custody), a survival analysis of involvement type by any community corrections breach history on the involvement was performed. Any breach history includes the presence of a breach of conditional sentence and/or a breach of a probation indicated at any time during the first involvement. Overall, rates of re-involvement were highest among involvements containing custody alone or in combination with community, who had a breach history, followed by custody involvements (with or without community) without a breach history (Figure 7). However, the indication of a breach history was consistently found to be related to higher rates of re-involvement over time, even for community-only involvements, where the re-involvement rate was considerably lower than those whose first involvement contained a period of custody.

Figure 6

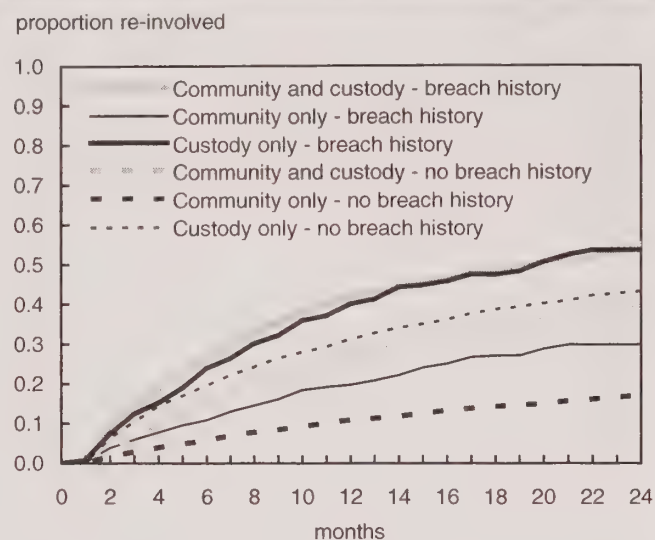
Cumulative proportion re-involved, 2003/2004 release cohort, to March 31, 2005, by breach of probation history in first involvement



Note: Includes Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Figure 7

Cumulative proportion re-involved, 2003/2004 release cohort, to March 31, 2005, by type of involvement and breach history in first involvement



Note: Includes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Text table 12

Re-involvement rate within one year of release of 2003/2004 release cohort, by most serious offence¹ in first involvement and involvement type, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan

	Community only		Community and custody		Custody only	
	Release cohort	Re-involved	Release cohort	Re-involved	Release cohort	Re-involved
	percent					
Serious violent offences ²	7.7	12.4	10.5	32.4	6.3	41.2
Sexual offences ³	2.9	5.6	4.8	27.1	3.1	31.6
Robbery	0.3	12.5	5.1	50.3	4.7	30.9
Common assault	23.9	9.4	4.8	28.1	2.7	33.3
Other violent offences ⁴	6.8	10.3	5.9	31.2	2.8	43.2
Break and enter	4.3	12.7	16.6	40.5	8.0	50.8
Theft and possession of stolen property	11.9	13.7	9.8	37.6	9.8	50.3
Other property offences	4.8	14.4	1.6	35.7	1.5	34.0
Offences against the administration of justice	6.7	14.4	6.6	32.8	9.9	47.9
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	14.3	12.3	20.7	34.7	12.0	32.8
<i>Criminal Code</i> — traffic offences	8.3	8.7	10.0	21.2	25.3	16.2
Drug offences	6.0	7.5	2.5	28.9	3.7	22.7
Other offences ⁵	2.0	10.5	1.2	13.6	10.2	32.2
Overall rate	...	11.1	...	33.7	...	33.5

... not applicable

1. Refers to the most serious offence existing on the involvement.

2. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major assault.

3. Includes sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, incest, anal intercourse, bestiality, sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to a third party or causing bodily harm, aggravated sexual assault.

4. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

5. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, and municipal bylaw infractions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Re-involvement rates differed by type of involvement and most serious offence on first involvement

As seen in the sections examining breaches, different types of offences were associated with higher rates of breach. Furthermore, an earlier report (Johnson 2005) found that re-involvement rates differed on the basis of the most serious offence in the first involvement, with robbery offenders having the highest re-involvement rates. Text table 12 presents a distribution of one-year fixed follow-up re-involvement rates by most serious offence and involvement type (community-only, community and custody, custody-only). Overall one-year fixed rates of return to correctional supervision were 11% for community-only involvements and 34% for community and custody, and custody-only involvements. Among community-only offenders, as compared to the overall rate (11%), offenders with a theft and possession of stolen property, other property offences and offences against the administration of justice had the highest rates of re-involvement (14% each). Theft and possession of stolen property was also associated with a higher rate of re-involvement than the overall rate for both community and custody involvements (38% versus 34%) and custody-only involvements (50% versus 33%). Similar results were found for break and enter where 40% of offenders involved in community and custody (versus 34%) and 51% of those involved in custody only (versus 33%) were re-involved. In addition, community and custody offenders who had a robbery as their most serious offence also had had higher rates (50% versus 34%). Some of the lowest re-involvement rates were found for sexual offences, drug offences, and *Criminal Code* traffic offences for all three groups.

Summary

This *Juristat* profiles community corrections and examines outcomes of community corrections in five provinces. The most common optional conditions imposed on community corrections were “attend counselling”, “abstain from drugs and alcohol”, and “no or restricted contact with certain persons”. However, it is interesting to note that in general, optional conditions frequently imposed on probation or conditional sentence orders were not the most frequently breached among those where the conditions were imposed.

In total, these results pinpoint some of the factors that are related to outcomes of offenders under community correctional supervision. Lower breach rates were found for those with fewer needs, those who were younger, and offenders who had sexual offences or traffic offences as their most serious offence. Other characteristics found to be related to lower breach rates included being non-Aboriginal and being female. The overall breach rate for an aggregate period of community supervision was 25% in Saskatchewan and 37% in Alberta.

It was possible to further examine breach for specific types of community supervision, probation or conditional sentences, in Alberta. The breach rate for probation in Alberta was 34% and

was 25% for conditional sentences. The most serious offence on the probation related to the highest rates of breach were for robbery and break and enter while the lowest rates were for those with sexual offences and *Criminal Code* traffic offences. For conditional sentences, similar results were observed, however, drug offences were also found to be associated with lower breach rates.

Many of these same factors, including offence type, Aboriginal Identity and sex, were also found to be related to re-involvement following completion of community correctional supervision. When looking at re-involvement in correctional supervision following completion of an involvement, persons who had been involved in only community corrections in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan had lower rates of re-involvement than those whose involvement included a period of custody. When broken down further, it was found that among those with any community involvement, those with a conditional sentence were found to have slightly higher re-involvement rates than those with a probation. Furthermore, higher rates of re-involvement were found for those who had a history of breaching community correctional supervision conditions, for both conditional sentence breaches and probation breaches.

Data sources

The Integrated Correctional Services Survey

The Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) is a person-based survey that is gradually being implemented by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in jurisdictions across Canada. The ICSS collects detailed data pertaining to the delivery of both youth and adult correctional services. These microdata are collected through three distinct records organized by (1) *person* (e.g., socio-demographic characteristics such as age, sex, Aboriginal Identity, etc.); (2) the person's *legal status*, such as sentenced custody, remand, probation and the characteristics of the status (e.g., aggregate sentence length, convicted offences, etc.); and, (3) *events* that pertain to the supervision (e.g., escapes, temporary absence, conditions of supervision, breaches of probation, parole and conditional sentences, rehabilitation programs, etc.).

Through an annual data extraction process in jurisdictions reporting to the survey, the ICSS database is updated with any new correctional supervision activity that occurred over the survey year. The result is the creation of a longitudinal database of the case histories of all persons involved in correctional services. These case histories can be examined in relation to concepts such as offence and supervision histories, breaches of conditional release and community correctional programs, the length of time between admissions, as well as the characteristics of involved persons, such as Aboriginal Identity, education level, etc. In addition, the survey collects information on other important indicators such as the assessment of offender needs; conditions attached to conditional releases, probation and conditional sentences; and security concerns associated with offenders under correctional supervision.

Re-involvement

A correctional re-involvement is counted when an individual returns to any type of correctional supervision in a provincial/territorial system after having fully completed a previous set of supervised obligations within the same jurisdiction.²⁴ In this *Juristat*, the first completed involvement from which persons are followed is referred to as the *first involvement*. The date when this involvement ended is referred to as the *first release*.

Since an important element of a follow-up period is its duration, the re-involvement rate and its opposite – the rate of not being re-involved are examined in the current study using two different methodologies, *survival analysis* and *fixed follow-up analysis*. Both of these methodologies take the time at risk into consideration. More information on both techniques is provided in Text box 5.

Note of caution

Comparing indicators derived from the ICSS survey in this *Juristat* to data from the Adult Correctional Services Survey (ACS) should not be made due to differences in definitions of concepts. For example, in this *Juristat*, a single period of community supervision may include more than one type of community supervision. In the ACS each type and separate occurrence of supervision would be counted separately, whereas in this *Juristat* (using ICSS data), the entire portion would be counted as one period of community supervision.

Glossary

Custodial supervision/custody: Detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced custody: Detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.

Non-sentenced custody:

- 1) **Remand:** Court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.
- 2) **Temporary detention:** Incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Community supervision: Supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence and community release (parole or statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: Disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order, including reporting to a probation officer. In some circumstances, in addition to a fine or a sentence, the court may also place the offender on probation.

Conditional sentence: Disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional

sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Community release: Supervision of offenders on day parole, full parole, statutory release and long-term supervision orders. The National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole, to terminate or revoke statutory release, detain certain offenders past their statutory release date, and grant unescorted temporary absences.

Parole: Programs of conditional release from custody into the community under the authority of parole boards.

Provincial parole: Programs of conditional release managed by administrative tribunals in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia that have the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole in their jurisdiction.

Day parole: Release of an offender into the community granted by the National Parole Board or a provincial parole board to prepare the offender for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require the offender to return to a penitentiary, a community-based residential facility or a provincial correctional facility each night. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for day parole six months prior to their full parole eligibility date or one-sixth of their sentence for cases that meet accelerated parole review criteria.

Full parole: Release of an offender into the community to serve part of their prison sentence. Offenders are under supervision by a parole officer and are required to abide by conditions designed to reduce the risk of re-offending and to foster re-integration into the community. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for parole after serving one third of their sentence or seven years after admission, whichever is less.

Statutory release: Release of federal offenders into the community after serving two-thirds of their sentence, unless they are detained by the National Parole Board or they waive statutory release.

Bail supervision: Bail supervision, also referred to as pretrial supervision, is a supervised recognizance order that provides an alternative to custodial remand for offenders awaiting trial. This is an option that incorporates supervision of the accused in the community (e.g., reporting to a probation officer, respecting curfew hours, etc.) as part of a judicial interim release.

Other community supervision programs: Includes restitution orders and community service orders.

Restitution order: A condition requiring the offender to make restitution for injuries or to pay compensation for loss of or damage to property as a result of the offence.

Community service order: A court order that the offender perform a certain number of hours of volunteer work or service in the community.

Most serious offence (MSO): Offences are ranked according to the Courts Program's Most Serious Offence Index, based on frequencies of charges and their sentences in adult provincial criminal court. The classification of offences into generic categories is done using incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey's violation coding classification structure. The ICSS uses these indices to determine and classify offences for which an offender is sentenced or being held in pre-trial supervision or bail supervision. For example, if an offender is sentenced with more than one offence, the most serious offence rule states that where several offences occur in one incident, only the three most serious offences per legal hold status are recorded.

Criminogenic needs: needs or problems that are more directly related to offending than others.

Attitude: degree to which an individual accepts responsibility for the offence and shows a willingness to change.

Peers/companions (social interaction): level of problems associated with some or all of the individual's peers.

Drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse): degree to which use of alcohol and/or drugs is associated with problems.

Employment: employment status (employed vs. unemployed) and employment history.

Family/marital relationships (marital/family): presence or absence of serious problems in relationships.

Emotional stability of offender (personal/emotional): whether or not emotional instability exists and the degree to which this related to serious problems.

Involvement: A continuous period of direct supervision within a specific jurisdiction's correctional system.

Period of community supervision: A continuous period of community correctional involvement (probation, conditional sentence and/or bail supervision) in a specific jurisdiction's correctional system.

Aggregate admission: An admission to a continuous period of probation or conditional sentence in a specific jurisdiction's correctional system. There may be more than one aggregate admission per person.

Breach: Violation of conditions imposed on a community supervision program, such as probation or conditional sentence.

Re-involvement: A re-involvement is counted when an individual returns to correctional supervision after having fully completed a previous set of supervised obligations. It should be noted that new offences committed and dealt within the court system while a person is already under the supervision of correctional services is not considered a 're-involvement' since the additional sentence would be incorporated within the existing sentence.

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Endnotes

1. Criminogenic needs refer to needs or problems, such as substance abuse or employment/education, that are more directly related to offending than others.
2. Data for this report come from the new person-level survey being implemented across Canada, the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS). At the time of writing this *Juristat*, data were available for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta. See Method, Concepts and Definitions and Data Sources sections for more information.
3. Other types of community correctional supervision, such as community release (provincial and federal day parole and parole, and federal statutory release), community service orders and restitution orders are not examined in this *Juristat*. Federal day parole, parole and statutory release are under the jurisdiction of the Correctional Service of Canada and therefore, are not included. Community service orders and restitution orders are often unsupervised, and may not be recorded in a jurisdiction's correctional case management system unless they accompany a probation or a conditional sentence order.
4. This is the second *Juristat* profiling data from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS), the first being "Returning to Correctional Services after release: A profile of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan Corrections from 1999/00 to 2003/04" (2005). The first *Juristat* examined correctional involvement and re-involvement outcomes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons in Saskatchewan's adult correctional system between 1999/2000 and 2003/2004. The current report builds upon this work with the addition of four more provinces and a more detailed examination of community correctional outcomes.
5. If a person is imprisoned for another offence, regardless of when it was committed, the running of the conditional sentence order is suspended during the sentence of imprisonment for the other offence, unless the court otherwise orders under s.742.4(3) (change in option conditions) or under s.742.6(9) (change in optional conditions, suspension or termination of conditional sentence for breach of conditions).
6. Several of the jurisdictions (Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta) provided integrated data from youth and adult correctional services to the ICSS. However, analysis has been limited to individuals under adult correctional supervision only. Those who had a correctional involvement that started in the youth system and continued into the adult system were retained, with the involvement start date revised to reflect that date at which involvement in the adult system began.
7. Bail supervision data were available in Saskatchewan only.
8. The rate of involvement in community corrections was calculated by dividing the average number of individuals on probation and/or conditional sentence on an average day in May 2003 by the total adult population per province. Similarly, the rate of involvement in custodial corrections was calculated by dividing the average number of individuals held in sentenced custody, remand or other temporary detention on an average day in 2003 by the total adult population per province.
9. These results may be influenced by crime rates and sentencing patterns in jurisdictions, as well as other factors.
10. Due to the unavailability of ICSS custody data in Alberta, rates of involvement in custodial corrections in Alberta were not calculated.
11. Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey. Due to missing data for some years, values exclude Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.
12. Individuals may be serving more than one community correctional program (probation and/or conditional sentence) during the time frame and therefore individuals may be represented in both probation and conditional sentence counts. However, individuals with more than one of the same community correctional programs are represented only once per community correctional program.
13. It was not possible within the methodology of this study to count the exact number of conditions, nor which conditional sentence or probation disposition it was associated with for those with more than one. Therefore, it was only possible to detect if there was 'one or more conditions', or 'no conditions' as well as the specific types of conditions attached.
14. Due to differences across jurisdictions in reporting practices, comparisons between jurisdictions on the types of conditions attached to a period of community correctional supervision should be interpreted with caution.
15. It should be noted that a large percentage of cases in all provinces also had 'other' conditions. This category includes 'victim surcharge', 'prohibition/seizure/forfeiture', 'peace bond', 'provide support/care to dependent', and any other conditions not specifically listed in the table. Furthermore, due to specific variations in some conditions, there may be some differences in how conditions are categorized. For example, in certain circumstances a condition such as 'attend financial management program' could be categorized under one of the categories listed in the table (e.g., 'attend counselling'), while in other circumstances, it could be categorized as an 'other' condition.
16. This type of information specific to Alberta is provided later in this report. Alberta was able to provide both probation breach dates and conditional sentence breach dates, while other jurisdictions were only able to provide conditional sentence breach dates. However, given that the type of community program breached was not known for Saskatchewan, it was only possible to examine these findings in relation to an overall breach rate per period of community supervision. These values are therefore considered comparable since only the presence or absence of a breach was measured.
17. Throughout this report, Aboriginal adults frequently had higher rates of breach and re-involvement than non-Aboriginal adults. This result is consistent with the re-involvement results of the S. Johnson 2005 report, and should be placed into the context of the social circumstances of Aboriginal people in Canada. For more information, please see S. Johnson 2005 and J. Brzozoski, A. Taylor-Butts and S. Johnson 2006.

18. The following criminogenic needs were assessed as low or medium/high: substance abuse, social interaction, family/marital, attitude, employment, and personal/emotional. Those assessed as medium/high per person were then counted and a composite score was derived, with a minimum possible value of 0 and a maximum of 6.
19. Alberta was the only jurisdiction where breach events and dates could be tracked directly to the relevant period of supervision under probation or conditional sentence.
20. That is, it was not possible to detect which of the three possible actions (no action, change in the conditions of the conditional sentence, or an order for the offender to serve some or all of the remainder of the conditional sentence in custody) was taken following the occurrence of a breach.
21. These rates differ from those reported earlier in this report for conditional sentences. This is due to the use of multiple methods to derive a breach indicator in the earlier results compared to just one method used in this section. However, these values are calculated in the same manner in which breach of probation in Alberta values are calculated.
22. It was not possible to include Alberta in the re-involvement analyses since Alberta's dataset included only those under community correctional supervision and therefore any returns to custody would not be detected.
23. Community-only involvements refer to persons who were only under community supervision during their correctional involvement and were not in custody at any time, while custody-only involvements refer to persons who were only supervised in custody and were not under community supervision at any time during the involvement. Community and custody involvements include persons whose correctional involvements contain periods of both community and custodial correctional supervision.
24. It should be noted that new offences committed and dealt within the court system while a person is already under the supervision of correctional services is not considered a correctional 're-involvement' in this study since the additional sentence would be incorporated within the existing sentence.

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Impacts and Consequences of Victimization, GSS 2004

by Kathy AuCoin and Diane Beauchamp



Highlights

- According to the GSS, there were over two million violent incidents in Canada in 2004 against persons 15 years of age and over of which one-quarter resulted in an injury. Approximately 24% of these injurious incidents resulted in the victim seeking medical attention, while for 20% of incidents victims required bed rest.
- Slightly less than a third of injurious violent incidents resulted in victims having their day-to-day activities disrupted for a period of one day (31%), while in 27% of incidents the disruption lasted two to three days. In 18% of incidents, victims were unable to carry-out their daily activities for more than two weeks.
- A majority of household and property-related incidents resulted in a loss of under \$500 (60%), while for 15% of incidents losses of more than \$1,000 were reported.
- A majority of incidents impacted victims emotionally (78%), while a minority of incidents did not affect victims at all (21%). Overall, a larger proportion of victims of non-violent incidents felt angry (41%) relative to victims of violent incidents (32%). Regardless of the type of victimization one-fifth of victims felt upset and expressed confusion and/or frustration as a result of their victimization.
- Results from the GSS found that a larger proportion of victims of violence (32%) reported sleeping problems than non-victims (17%). In addition, a larger proportion of female victims (37%) of violent victimization reported experiencing sleeping problems relative to their male counterparts (28%).
- According to the GSS, just under one-third of victims of violence (30%) installed new locks or security bars, whereas this was the case for one-tenth of non-victims (10%).
- Overall, victims were found to feel less safe than non-victims. For example, a smaller proportion of victims of violent incidents (37%) reported feeling very safe walking alone after dark than did non-victims (46%).
- Just under one-fifth (18%) of women who had been victims of violence reported feeling very safe walking alone after dark, which was a much lower proportion than that reported by their male counterparts (49%).



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Introduction

Nearly three out of ten Canadians 15 years of age and older were victimized in some manner in the year leading up to the 2004 General Social Survey on victimization (GSS). The impact and consequences of these victimizations can involve physical injury, financial loss, and property damage, as well as psychological and emotional after-effects. Criminal victimization may also affect victim's families and friends as well as society as a whole. Moreover, research to date has found that crime witnesses, who may not suffer immediate physical and/or economic consequences as a direct result of a crime incident, may suffer from trauma, anxiety and heightened levels of stress as a result of their experience (Kilpatrick et al., 1997).

The impact of criminal victimization may be shaped by a number of variables: sex of the victim, age, a victim's prior history of victimization or that of persons known to the victim, overall perceptions of crime, the type and severity of crime experienced, and the relationship between the victim and the offender. For example, research has found that victims of property crime are not as traumatized as victims of violent crime, yet they still experience elevated levels of fear, depression, hostility and sleep problems that can last for a long period of time (Norris, et al., 1997). In addition, women have been found to report higher levels of fear as a result of being a victim of crime relative to men (Kilpatrick and Acierno, 2003).

Measuring the overall cost to society, as a result of victimization, is difficult at best. Defining what and how to measure the many different costs associated with victimization is just one of the many barriers to undertaking such a study. Short-term and long-term, direct and indirect costs to victims, their families, and society are just a few of the many factors that would need to be considered to complete such a costing exercise.

Using the 2004 GSS, the present analysis describes some of the direct and indirect impacts of crime, including physical, economic, emotional/psychological and societal costs. Where feasible, the analysis breaks down victim categories by violent (robbery, physical and sexual assault), non-violent (personal and household-related incidents of theft or attempted theft) and witnesses of crime (see Textbox 1 for a definition of a crime witness and the Methodology section for descriptions of violent and non-violent incidents). Where possible, gender differences are considered.

This analysis shows that not only do victims incur physical, emotional and financial costs as a direct result of their victimization, but that their perceptions of their neighbourhoods and personal safety and their opinions concerning the police system are affected by their prior victimization experience. The analysis highlights the fact that regardless of crime experiences, women tend to express more fear related to crime than men and when women are victims of crime the impact on their emotions, their use of precautionary measures and their sense of security seems to be greater relative to men.

Textbox 1: Witnesses of crime

The GSS asked respondents whether or not they had come into contact with police during the previous 12-month period for various reasons including as a witness to a crime. Those that responded "yes" to this question and **had not** been a victim of any other crime during the same time period were placed in the victim category "crime witness". The value of including this group in the analysis is to represent those that may not be directly touched by the crime – but whose perceptions of the criminal justice system and crime levels may be altered as a consequence of what they saw. What is not clear from the GSS data is what type of crime respondents had witnessed and who the victim was. Both of these factors may influence how witnesses are impacted by what they saw.

Physical consequences of violent incidents

More than one-quarter of violent incidents resulted in physical injury

According to the 2004 GSS, there were over two million violent incidents in Canada against persons 15 years of age and older. One-quarter of these incidents resulted in an injury. Equal proportions of physical assault (31%) and robbery incidents (30%) resulted in an injury, while incidents of sexual assault were less likely to involve a physical injury (7%). There was no significant difference between female and male victims of violent crime and their likelihood of being injured (23% for women and 27% for men) (Table 1).

Among incidents involving injuries, 24% were serious enough to require the victim to seek medical attention, whereas 20% of incidents resulted in the victim requiring bed rest. Similar to the level of injury there was no significant difference in the proportion of incidents involving men and women seeking medical assistance or staying in bed as a result of their injury (Table 1).

Despite the fact that many injuries were not serious enough for victims to seek medical attention, about 4 out of 10 injured victims (39%) had difficulty carrying out daily activities for most or all of the day. Overall, a larger proportion of incidents involving injured women resulted in the victim having difficulty carrying out daily activities (46%) relative to incidents involving men (33%). Of those incidents involving a physical assault, 40% of women and 30% of men had their daily activities disrupted.

Just under one-third of violent incidents involving an injury (31%) resulted in the loss of one day from daily activities, while 27% of injurious violent incidents resulted in a loss of two to three days. A further 7% of incidents resulted in a loss of a week, and an additional 18% resulted in victims finding it difficult to carry out their everyday activities, for more than two weeks because of the injury thus adding stress to the victim, their family and their financial situation.

Among violent incidents that did not involve an injury, disruptions of daily activities were experienced in one-fifth of incidents. A larger proportion of these disruptions lasted for a day (43%) followed by two to three days (18%).

Economic costs of violent and non-violent incidents

Personal economic losses incurred as a result of being a victim of crime may consist of several different types of expenses including direct financial losses, property losses and damage to property, medical costs, lost wages due to absenteeism, monies spent on purchasing locks and security systems, and possible long-term counseling costs to cope with the emotional and psychological after-effects of the victimization.

Insurance claims offset total cost of household and property-related losses

In order to capture the financial costs of household and property-related incidents, respondents were asked to report on the dollar value of the items that were stolen and/or damaged during the incident experienced during the previous 12-months. Overall, more than 8 out of 10 incidents resulted in losses. The majority of incidents resulted in losses of under \$500 (60%), while in 15% of household and property-related incidents losses of more than \$1,000 were reported (Figure 1).

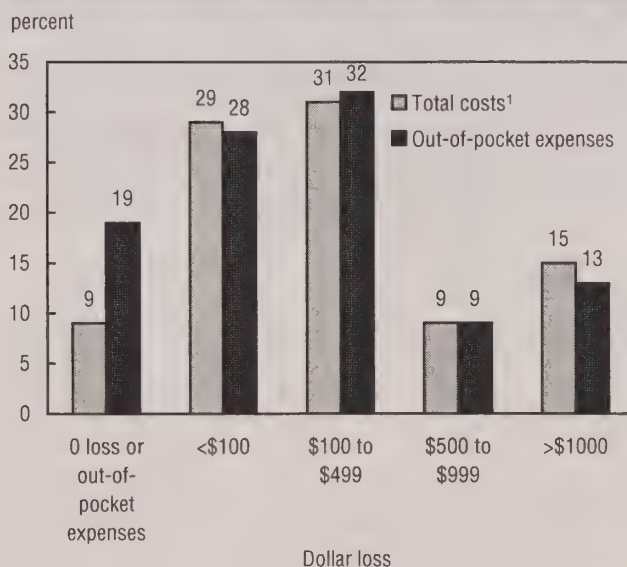
Overall, the proportion of all household and property-related incidents that resulted in no out-of-pocket losses doubled to 19% from 9% when taking into account incidents that obtained monies through compensation (Figure 1).

Of those incidents in which the respondent had insurance and submitted a claim (19% of household or property-related incidents), more than 7 out of 10 received monetary compensation (72%).

In addition to direct losses, property and household incidents are also costly when considering the time lost to replace damaged and/or stolen goods, or to wait for service or insurance agents. More than 6 out of 10 property and household-related incidents resulted in disruptions of the victim's day-to-day activities that

Figure 1

Losses associated with household and property-related incidents most often less than \$500 dollars, 2004



1. Includes out of pocket cost.

Notes: Includes break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of personal property, theft of household property, and vandalism. Includes attempts. The percent represent household and property incidents. Percentages does not add up to 100% as *Don't knows/not stated* are not included.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

exceeded 6 hours. A larger percentage of these non-violent incidents resulted in victims losing one day (38%) of normal activities, followed by 18% of incidents resulting in two days of disruption and a further 12% of incidents resulting in three days of disruption.

Societal costs of meeting the needs of victims

The cost of victimization is not only felt by victims and their immediate families but by society as a whole. Many victims find it difficult to carry out daily activities and their contribution to society can be diminished, resulting in a broader societal loss. Friends and family of the victim may also be adversely affected by the victimization and may not be able to fully participate in their day-to-day activities. Furthermore, additional societal costs are incurred with helping victims and their families deal with the aftermath of crime. The combined costs of victim services, crime prevention and offender processing represent some of the financial costs borne by society (see Textboxes 2 and 3 for more information on measuring societal costs of crime).

Victims rely on informal support systems

Victims may seek assistance from both formal and informal support mechanisms to help cope with their victimization. Informal services include people that victims may seek advice from or talk to about their experiences, while a formal support

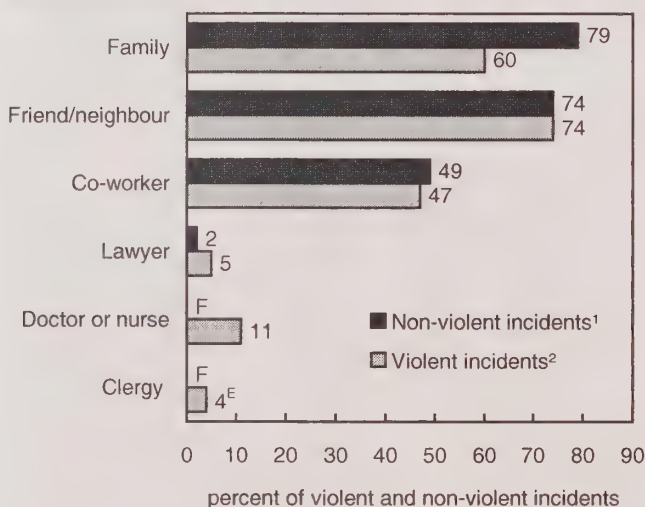
system is an agency that is specifically designed to meet the needs of victims such as shelters, counselors, victim service agencies, and crisis centres.

Overall, informal support systems were used more frequently than formal systems. In 8 out of 10 non-violent incidents, victims turned to a family member, while this was the case for 6 in 10 violent incidents. While victims may seek professional services to deal with their victimization they may also speak to professionals in an informal manner to understand how they can be helped. In just over one-tenth (11%) of violent incidents, victims turned to a doctor or nurse, while in 5% of violent incidents a lawyer was consulted (Figure 2).

Formal support services were also used by victims of violent incidents – but less frequently relative to informal support mechanisms. Overall, violent incidents involving female victims (13%) were more likely to result in the use of formal services than violent incidents involving a male victim (5%^E). In just under one-tenth of violent incidents involving a female victim, counselors and psychologists were called upon. In a further 3% of incidents the services of a crisis centre or crisis lines or community/family centres (3%^E each) were employed by female victims of violence (Figure 3).

Figure 2

Victims of crime most likely to turn to family and friends, 2004



^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

1. Includes break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of personal property, theft of household property, and vandalism. Includes attempts.

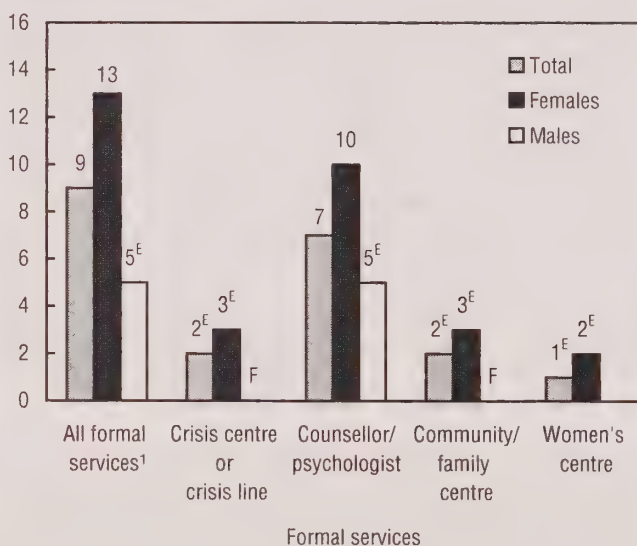
2. Includes robbery, attempted robbery, assault, sexual assault, excludes spousal violence.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Figure 3

Overall female victims more likely than males to use formal services, 2004

percent of violent incidents



^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

1. All formal services include men's centre or men's support group, seniors' centre, women's centre, community or family centre, crisis centre or crisis line, counselor or psychologist.

Notes: Includes break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of personal property, theft of household property, and vandalism. Includes attempts. Percentages does not add up to 100% as Don't knows/not stated are not included.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Textbox 2: Tracking the costs associated with crime

Tracking the total financial and economic costs of victimization has yet to be undertaken in Canada. A comprehensive study that includes all victimization costs would need to include measures of property losses/damages, medical costs incurred during the actual incident, the costs of the long-term emotional/psychological consequences of the incident, costs of prevention, costs of the criminal justice system itself, and secondary costs associated with impacts on family and friends of the victim. Such a comprehensive study would be an exhaustive process. To date, several studies have been undertaken in order to provide a partial cost of victimization, and these include the following:

- Based on data collected through Statistics Canada surveys, it is estimated that the total financial expenditures for administering policing, courts, legal aid, prosecutions and adult corrections totalled over 12 billion dollars in 2002/2003. This total translates into \$399 per Canadian. The majority of the funding was spent on policing (61%), followed by adult corrections (22%), courts (9%), legal aid (5%) and criminal prosecutions (3%) (Kong, 2005).
- In a 2004 study, Canadian researchers attempted to derive a monetary counter for the cost of crime, taking into account the cost of pain and suffering associated with crime in Canada, by using an economic model based on: the number of incidents (by type of crime), the proportion of victims who were worried about their safety, and the value of both the perceived and actual mental distress brought about by being a victim of crime. Using data from the Uniform Crime Report (UCR Survey, 1999) and the 1999 General Social Survey, the study estimated that the cost of pain and suffering for all crimes based on 1999 GSS data was close to \$36 billion (Leung, 2004).
- Bowlus et al. (2003) recently looked at the economic costs of child abuse in Canada using data from the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect, the 1990 Ontario Health Survey Mental Health Supplement, and the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (for 1998). They arrived at an estimate of \$15.7 billion. According to this study, victims experience significant personal and financial burdens associated with the abuse (15% of the total estimated costs). Costs for legal proceedings and therapies (both counseling and drug), were just a few of the personal costs listed. The researchers pointed out that the largest cost (70% of the total) was incurred by adult survivors of child abuse as a result of lost employment income. They noted that victims of childhood abuse experienced behavioural and learning problems, which resulted in lower levels of educational achievement, and as a result were unable to secure employment or their level of employment was somewhat low. The researchers stated that the long-term impacts of the abuse could lead to high rates of absenteeism and addictions (Bowlus, et al., 2003).

Emotional and psychological impacts of crime

The experience of being a victim of crime can evoke a wide range of emotions that can be affected by the severity of the crime, sex of the victim and prior victimization. The GSS asked respondents to describe their emotional reactions to their victimization. The majority of respondents reported some form of emotional reaction (78%), while a minority (21%) reported that the incident did not affect them that much. Further analysis show that the proportion of respondents reporting that their victimization did not affect them that much was larger among non-violent incidents (26%) relative to violent incidents (19%).

Textbox 3: Results from the Transition Home and Victim Service Surveys

Currently, Statistics Canada measures the services available for victims through two surveys: the Transition Home Survey and the Victims Services Survey. Results from these surveys look at the number of clients served on a specific "snapshot day" and provide a profile of their needs. According to the Transition Home Survey (2003/2004), between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004 annual admissions totalled just over 52,000 women and 36,000 children. The majority of women who use shelters are there to escape spousal abuse (Taylor-Butts, 2005). Costs associated with operating shelters in Canada amount to over \$210 million (Code, 2003).

According to the Victim Services Survey over 4,000 victims were served in system-based, community-based, police-based and court-based service agencies in 2003/04. Three-quarters of victims were victims of violent crimes, while 22% were victims of property-related crimes and non-criminal incidents (i.e. attempted suicides or traffic collisions) (Kong, 2004).

Results from the Victims Services Survey found that among the 8 criminal injuries compensation programs that responded to the survey, a total of \$70.6 million was paid out in compensation for victims, with the largest amount being paid out for lost wages (42%) (Kong, 2004).

Overall, a larger proportion of victims of non-violent incidents were left feeling angry (41%) relative to victims of violence (32%). Regardless of type of incident, one-fifth were left feeling upset, confused and/or frustrated. A notable difference between violent and non-violent incidents was the proportion of victims left fearful or shocked, almost one-fifth of violent incidents left victims fearful and in over one-tenth of violent incidents left victims shocked. By comparison fear and shock were expressed in less than one-tenth of non-violent incidents¹.

These results mirror previous research, which found that anger and fear were among the most common emotional responses to victimization. Greenberg and Ruback found that anger was more likely to be recorded amongst victims of property-related crime, while higher levels of fear were recorded amongst victims of violent crime (Greenberg and Ruback, 1992).

Females more likely to report emotional impact as a result of violence than males

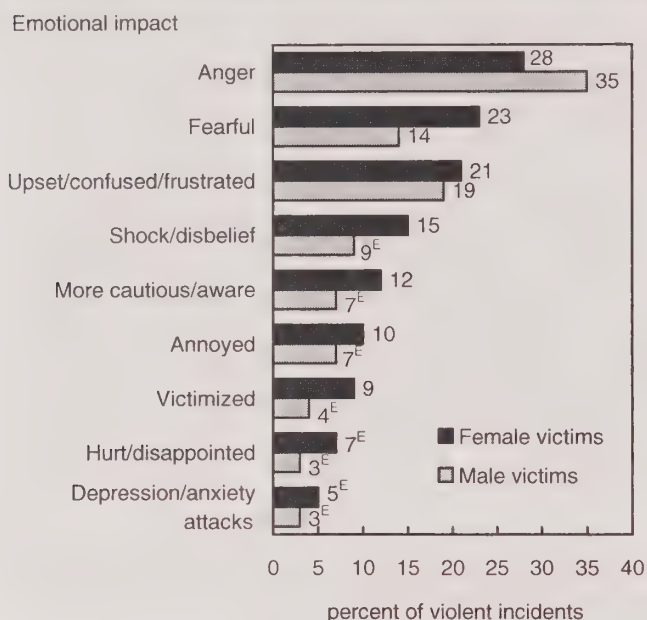
Results from the GSS indicate that emotional reactions to violent incidents differ according to the sex of the victim. One-third of violent incidents against a male victim resulted in respondents stating that they had not been emotionally affected by the incident (33%), compared to 18% of violent incidents involving a female victim. Men were more likely to report anger (35%) than were women (28%), while women were more likely than their male counterparts to be fearful (23% versus 14%), shocked (15% versus 9%^E), cautious and aware (12% versus 7%^E), and to feel victimized (9% versus 4%^E) (Figure 4).²

^E use with caution

1. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.
2. Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

Figure 4

Female victims of violent crimes feel anger, fear and confusion, 2004



^E use with caution

Notes: Total percentage exceed 100% due to multiple responses. Includes robbery, attempted robbery, assault, sexual assault, excludes victims of spousal sexual and physical assault.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Proportion of respondents reporting confusion and frustration highest among victims of family-related violence

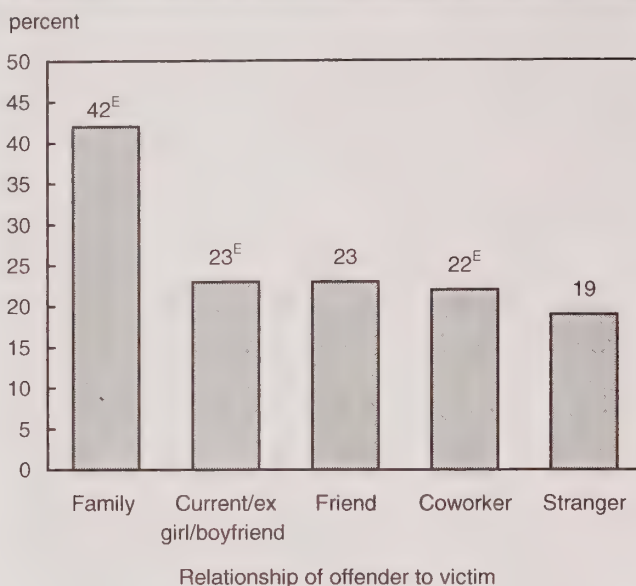
Another factor associated with the level of emotional impact is the degree of familiarity between the victim and offender. For violent incidents, those victimized by a family member were more likely to report feeling upset and confused (42%^E) compared to victims who had been assaulted by a stranger (19%), or friend (23%) (Figure 5). An individual victimized by a family member may have a harder time avoiding the offender and/or reporting the offence.

One-third of victims of violent crime report sleeping problems

Another after-effect of victimization can be sleep-related problems, possibly a result of increased stress levels, fear, depression and/or anxiety. According to the GSS, less than one-fifth of non-victims reported sleeping problems, while this was the case for one-third of victims of violence. A higher percentage of victims of violent incidents (14%) took medication in order to cope with their sleeping problems than did non-victims (9%) (Table 2).³

Figure 5

Victims of family-related violence more likely to be upset, confused and/or frustrated than those victimized by others, 2004



^E use with caution

Note: Percent represent victims feeling upset, confused and/or frustrated.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Female victims of violent crime were more likely than their male counterparts to report a sleeping problem. Almost 4 out of 10 female victims of violent crime reported sleeping problems compared to just over one-quarter of their male counterparts, while a much smaller proportion of non-victims reported such problems (20% females and 14% males).

In addition to the seriousness of the incident, multiple victimizations were associated with the reporting of sleeping problems. Overall, fewer than one-fifth of one-time victims of non-violent crime reported sleeping problems, while this was the case for more than one-quarter of those who had experienced multiple non-violent victimizations.

The experience of multiple victimizations appears to affect female victims, while having little impact on their male counterparts. Just over one-fifth of female victims (21%) who had experienced a single non-violent incident reported a sleeping problem, while this was the case for more than one-third of females who had experienced three or more household or property-related incidents (36%).

- However, it should be noted that victims were not asked if these sleeping problems were directly associated with their victimization. Nevertheless, comparing the incidence of sleeping problems for non-victims and victims may highlight health-related problems associated with victimization.

The pattern of sleeping problems reported by those who experienced multiple violent victimizations was somewhat dissimilar from victims of repeated non-violent crime. Just over one quarter of one-time victims of violence reported a sleeping problem, while this was the case for more than one third of those victimized twice (37%). It might be expected that a sleeping problem would be reported for a higher percentage of victims of three or more violent victimizations, yet this was not the case (Figure 6).

Textbox 4: Long-term psychological impacts of victimization

Capturing the long-term psychological impacts of victimization was not the aim of the GSS survey design. However, research conducted in the United States has tracked a group of over 12,000 victims of property and violent crime over a five-year period. Victims of violent crime were found in the U.S. research to be 2.5 times more likely to report depression than non-victims, and over 1.5 times more likely to report hostility and/or anxiety. Victims of property-related crime were 1.5 times more likely than non-victims to report depression after a five-year period. The analysis took into account demographic variables as well as previous psychological differences amongst respondents (Norris, et al., 1997).

Perceptions of crime and personal safety

Perceptions of neighbourhood crime vary by type of victimization

Being a victim of a crime may lead individuals to question the overall safety of their surrounding environment and their levels of trust in relation to their home or work neighbourhoods. According to the GSS those who had experienced some form of victimization, either as a victim or as a witness to a crime, were more likely to perceive an increase in neighbourhood crime levels relative to respondents who had not experienced nor witnessed a crime (Table 3).

Repeated victimization impacts perceptions of increasing neighbourhood crime levels. More than one-third of one-time victims felt crime had increased, while half of victims who had experienced three or more victimizations felt this way (Figure 8).

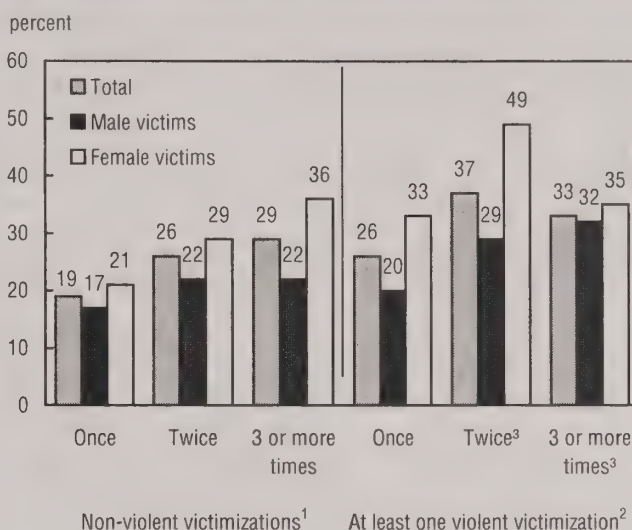
The experience of being a victim affects an individual's perceptions that crime in their neighbourhood is higher than in other areas of the country. About 18% of individuals who had been violently victimized perceived that crime was higher in their neighbourhood relative to other regions in Canada, while this was the case for 13% of victims of non-violent incidents, 11% of crime witnesses and 6% of non-victims (Table 3).

Variation in fear levels among victims and non-victims

In addition to differences in perceptions of neighbourhood crime levels victims and non-victims also differed in their levels of fear. In general, non-victims have a greater sense

Figure 6

Higher proportion of victims of violence reporting sleeping problems during the previous month, 2004



1. Includes break and enter, attempted break and enter, motor vehicle theft, attempted motor vehicle theft, theft of personal property, attempted theft of personal property, theft of household property, attempted theft of household property and vandalism.
2. Includes robbery, attempted robbery, assault, sexual assault, excludes spousal violence.
3. Of the repeat violent victimization at least one of the incidents was violent in nature while subsequent victimization could be violent or non-violent in nature.

Note: Percent represent victims with sleeping problems.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

of security relative to victims (Table 4). Of those persons who walked alone after dark, 46% of non-victims stated that they felt very safe, while the figure for victims of a violent incident was 37%.⁴ The results also indicate that there are differences between males and females with regards to feelings of safety. Of those respondents who had not been victimized, one-third of women (32%) reported feeling very safe walking alone after dark, while this was the case for more than half of men (57%). Among those who had been violently victimized the proportion of female victims reporting feeling very safe while walking alone after dark was 18%, less than half the proportion reported among male victims of violent incidents (49%) – illustrating a heightened level of fear among female victims of violent incidents (Table 4).

When asked their feelings about being home alone in the evening or at night, females were more likely than males to report feeling somewhat worried. Among non-victims, 21% of

4. Based on responses of people who walk alone after dark.

Textbox 5: Impact and consequences of spousal violence

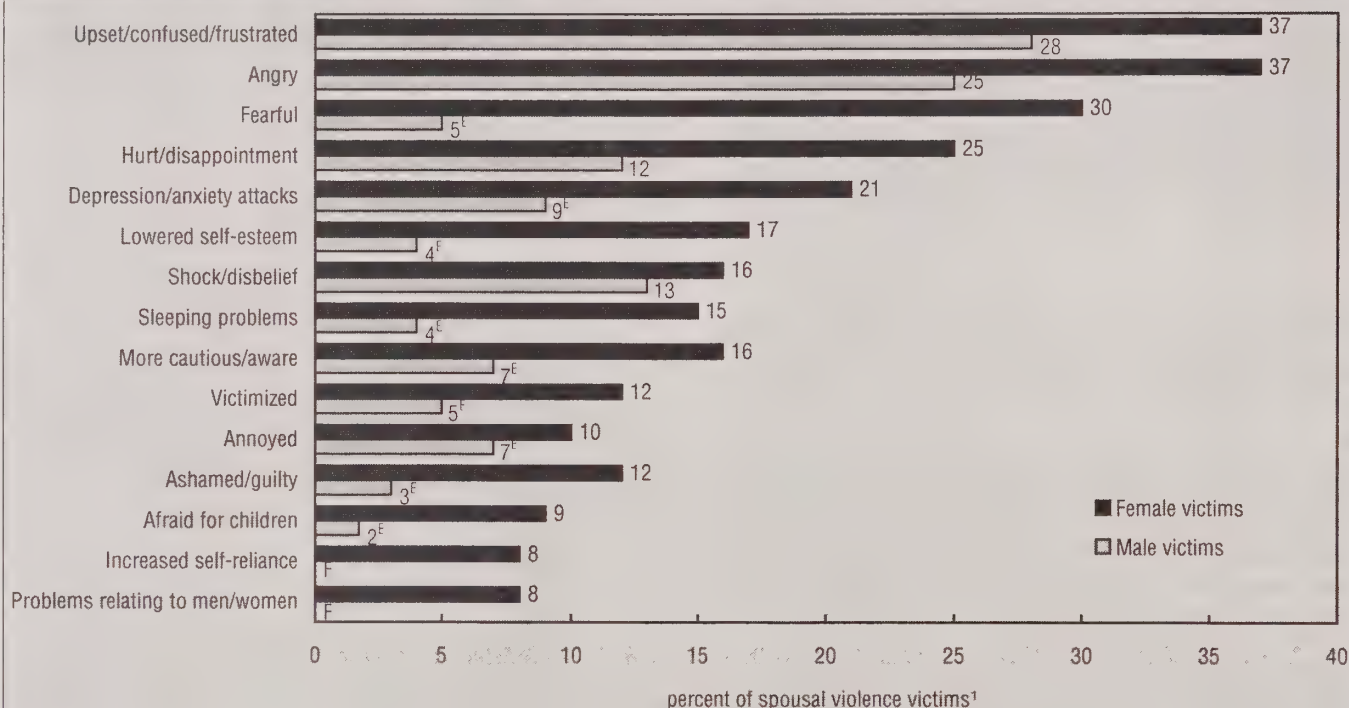
The GSS collected data on the nature and prevalence of spousal violence that occurred in the previous five years among persons in a current or previous spousal relationship. Results from the GSS showed that victims of spousal violence suffered numerous types of physical injuries including bruises (92%), cuts (40%) and fractures (7%^E). Female victims (44%) of spousal violence were more likely to suffer a physical injury than their male counterparts (19%). In addition to the physical impacts of spousal

violence, most victims reported experiencing psychological/emotional after-effects. A minority of female victims reported that the experience had little or no affect on them (6% of female and 30% of male victims), while over one-third reported feeling upset and/or confused or angry (37%). A larger proportion of female victims (30%) stated that they were fearful relative to their male counterparts (5%^E), and one-fifth of female victims experienced depression and/or anxiety attacks as a result of the violence (Mihorean, 2005).

^E use with caution

Figure 7

Emotional consequences of spousal violence



^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

¹ Includes women and men who experienced violence by a current or previous partner in the past 5-year period.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

females and 10% of males reported feeling somewhat worried. These proportions increased to 33% of female victims and 17% of male victims of violent crime (Table 4).⁵

When respondents were asked how they felt using public transportation alone after dark⁶, women were more likely to report feeling somewhat worried by this activity. Forty-seven percent of female non-victims compared to 23% of male non-victims felt this way. The proportion reporting feeling somewhat

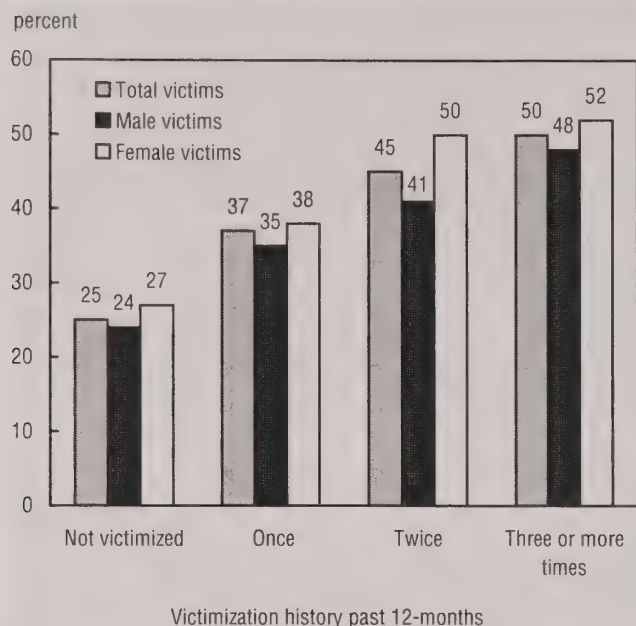
worried was much larger among respondents with a history of violent victimization (54% of females and 33% of males) or non-violent victimization (56% females and 31% males) (Table 4).

5. Based on responses of people who are home alone in the evening or night.

6. Based on responses of people who use public transportation alone after dark.

Figure 8

Victims of repeat victimization more likely to perceive neighbourhood crime increasing, 2004



Notes: Includes robbery, attempted robbery, assault, sexual assault, break and enter, attempted break and enter, motor vehicle theft, attempted motor vehicle theft, theft of personal property, attempted theft of personal property, theft of household property, attempted theft of household property and vandalism, excludes spousal violence. Percent represent respondents reporting perceived increases in neighbourhood crime.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Protective measures

Individuals often employ various strategies to protect themselves and their belongings. These behaviours vary from person to person and can be influenced by prior victimization that they or someone known to them experienced. Results from the GSS show that adopting preventative behaviours can be influenced by victimization history.⁷

The types of protective measures victims and non-victims used in the past 12-months were quite similar, in descending order of most common responses: changing one's routine and/or avoiding certain places, installing new locks or security bars, and installing burglar alarms or motion detector lights. Very few individuals, victims or not, reported using the most extreme protective measure – obtaining a gun.

Larger proportion of victims of violent crime use protective measures than non-victims

While their overall preferences were similar, the likelihood of employing protective measures varied greatly between

victims and non-victims. A larger proportion of victims of violent victimization (52%) said that they changed their routine and/or avoided certain places, compared to victims of non-violent victimization (39%), witnesses to crime (32%) or non-victims (19%). Just under one third of victims of violence (30%) installed new locks or security bars, while this was the case for one-tenth of non-victims. In addition, a larger proportion of victims of a non-violent incident or those who had witnessed a crime stated that they used protective measures than non-victims (Table 5).

As for adopting more extreme protective measures, compared to non-victims, a larger proportion of victims of violence changed residence, moved or took a self-defence course; however, these measures were reported less often than other less extreme measures.

Differences were also evident in the proportion of men and women reporting the need to change their routine and/or avoid certain places. Among victims of violence, more than 6 out of 10 females (62%) altered their day-to-day activities, while this was the case for less than half of male victims (44%). Among victims of non-violent victimization or witnesses, the difference between females and males was not as large. As for all the other protective measures, there were no statistical significant differences between women and men.

Use of protective measures increases with repeat victimization

The number of victimizations experienced by an individual had an impact on the adoption of protective measures. Just under six out of ten respondents who had been violently victimized once (57%) adopted protective measures, while this was the case for a larger proportion of respondents who had been victimized three or more times (75%). Similarly, among victims of non-violent incidents, those who experienced three or more incidents (75%) were more likely to report adopting protective measures relative to victims who had experienced one victimization (50%) (Table 6).⁸

Victims' perceptions of the justice system

Based on their experiences with the judicial system, victims may have different views of the justice system than non-victims. Whether they report the incident to the police, a victim's trust and perception of the effectiveness of the judicial process for example, may be affected by their experiences.

7. The reader should note however, that respondents reported what measures they used in the previous 12 months – but did not indicate whether these measures were implemented before or after their victimization.
8. The survey did not ask respondents to state whether these measures were taken before or after their victimization but the overall patterns of behaviour exhibited by each victim group indicates a difference in behaviour that is predicated on victimization history including number and type of victimization experienced in the previous 12-month period.

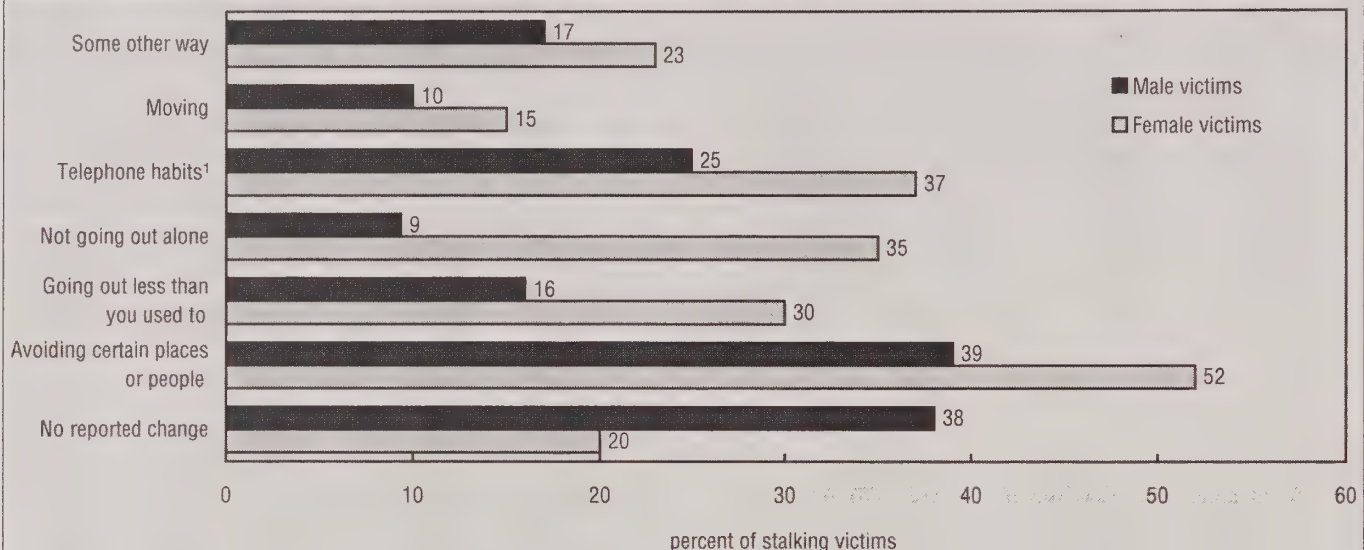
Textbox 6: Impact and consequences of stalking

The 2004 GSS measured the prevalence and nature of stalking and its impact on victims. Results from the GSS show that 9% of persons over the age of 15 had been stalked in the previous 5 years. The vast majority of these victims changed their day-to-day habits in order to cope with the stress of being stalked, and as a means of protecting themselves from encountering their stalker (80% of female victims and

62% of male victims). Avoiding certain places and people was the most frequently reported behaviour change amongst victims, followed by using telephone technologies to screen calls. Over one-third of female stalking victims (35%) chose not to go out alone, while this was the case for 9% of male victims. For 15% of female stalking victims and 10% of male victims, a move from their residence was used as a method to deal with their victimization.

Figure 9

Stalking victims change daily habits to cope with stress, 2004



1. Getting an unlisted phone number, call display, call screening or call blocking.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Prior victimization impacts perceptions of the police

Generally, non-victims perceived that the police were doing a good job. About two-thirds of non-victims stated that the police were doing a good job being approachable (67%), ensuring the safety of citizens (66%), enforcing the laws (64%), and treating people fairly (63%). In contrast, a smaller proportion of victims of a violent victimization felt that the police were doing a good job being approachable (52%), ensuring the safety of citizens (49%), enforcing the laws (43%), and treating people fairly (43%) than non-victims.

Similarly, respondents who had either been a victim of a non-violent incident or had witnessed a crime showed less positive attitudes toward the police than did non-victims, with the exception of the perception of the police being approachable. Being a victim of a crime seems to have a negative impact on one's perception of police and their effectiveness (Table 7).

Prior victimization doesn't seem to impact perceptions of criminal courts, prison or parole systems

Overall, 4 out of 10 individuals stated that the courts were doing a good job ensuring that the accused obtained a fair trial and there was no difference by victimization history. When asked about how the courts were doing in providing help to victims, one-fifth of individuals felt that the courts were succeeding. Again this did not vary by victimization history.

Respondents were also asked if they thought the prison system was doing a good job supervising and controlling prisoners. Regardless of their victimization history, about one-third of individuals agreed with this statement, while less than one-fifth of individuals believed that the prison system helped prisoners become law-abiding citizens.

According to the GSS 2004, less than one-fifth of individuals perceived that the parole system was doing a good job supervising and releasing offenders.

Conclusion

Victims of crime may suffer physical injury, financial losses as well as emotional and psychological after-effects, all of which impact their quality of life. The type and severity of crime experienced as well as the number of victimizations can influence the degree to which an individual is affected. Findings from the 2004 GSS illustrate that victims' perceptions of their neighbourhoods, their own personal safety, as well as the police are affected by their prior victimization experience. In addition, the data highlight the fact that regardless of their experiences as victims, women tend to express more elevated levels of fear than men. When women are victims of crime, the impact on their emotions, their use of precautionary measures and their sense of security seems to be of a greater magnitude relative to men.

Methodology

General Social Survey on Victimization

In 2004, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the General Social Survey for the fourth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993 and 1999. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the extent to which people experience incidences of eight offence types, examine risk factors associated with victimization and reporting rates to police, and measure fear of crime and public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

Sampling

The 2004 GSS on victimization had a sample size of 24,000 households in the provinces that were selected using Random Digit Dialling (RDD). Once a household was chosen an individual 15 years or older was selected randomly to respond to the survey. The use of telephones for sample selection and data collection means that the 2004 GSS sample in the provinces only covers the 96% of the population that had telephone service. Households without telephones, households with only cellular phone service, and individuals living in institutions were excluded. These groups combined represented 4% of the target population. This figure is not large enough to significantly change the estimates. The response rate for the GSS Cycle 18 sample was 75%.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. The difference between the estimate obtained from the sample and the one resulting from a complete count is called the sampling error of the estimate. This report uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has

a high CV (over 33.3%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable. An estimate that has a CV between 16.6% and 33.3% should be used with caution and the symbol ^(E) is used.

The 2004 GSS collected information on

Violent Victimization

- **Sexual assault;** Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing, or fondling.
- **Robbery;** Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or the threat of violence against the victim.
- **Physical assault;** An attack (victim hit, slapped, grabbed, knocked down, or beaten), a face-to-face threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present.

Non-Violent Victimization

- **Theft of personal property;** Theft or attempted theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, purse/wallet (unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim).
- **Household victimization;** Break and entering, illegal entry or attempted entry into a residence or other building on the victim's property.
- **Motor vehicle/parts theft;** Theft or attempted theft of a car, truck, van, motorcycle, moped or other vehicle or part of a motor vehicle.
- **Theft of household property;** Theft or attempted theft of household property such as liquor, bicycles, electronic equipment, tools or appliances.
- **Vandalism;** Wilful damage of personal or household property.

Non-victims

Non-victim consists of all respondents who were not victimized in the previous 12 months, and did not come into contact with police and were not witnesses of a crime. Furthermore, they did not suffer any physical or sexual violence by a current partner or spouse nor by an ex-partner or ex-spouse. Finally they were not a victim of stalking in the past twelve months.

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Table 1

Physical consequences from violent incidents, by sex of victim, 2004

	Total violent incidents					
	Total		Male		Female	
	number ('000)	percent	number ('000)	percent	number ('000)	percent
Total incidents of violence	2,109	100	1,135	100	974	100
Injury	532	25	310	27	222	23
No Injury	1,545	73	802	71	743	76
Physical impact of injury						
Received medical attention	129	24	72	23 ^E	57	26
Stayed in bed	105	20	63	20 ^E	42	19 ^E
Difficulty carrying out every day activities for all or most of the day	206	39	103	33	103	46

^E use with caution

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 2

Percent of respondents who reported sleeping problems by type of victimization and sex, 2004

	Non-victim			Violent victimization			Non-violent victimization			Crime witness		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	percent											
Sleeping problems in previous month	17	14	20	32	28	37	22	19	25	19	17	23
Medication taken to...												
Help you sleep	9	7	11	14	11	18	11	8	14	11	9 ^E	13 ^E
Help calm you down	6	4	7	10	8	11	7	5	8	6	3 ^E	9 ^E
Help you get out of depression	4	3	6	10	7 ^E	14	7	4	9	5 ^E	F	9 ^E

^E use with caution

F amount too unreliable to be published

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 3

Perceptions of neighbourhood crime, by type of victimization and sex, 2004

	Non-victim			Violent victimization			Non-violent victimization			Crime witness		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	percent											
During the last 5 years, has crime in your neighbourhood ...												
Increased	25	24	26	42	39	46	40	38	42	35	34	37
Decreased	6	7	4	6	8 ^E	4 ^E	6	6	5	7 ^E	8 ^E	F
Stayed the same	62	63	61	44	46	42	48	50	47	51	53	49
Don't know/not stated	8	7	8	7	7 ^E	8 ^E	6	6	6	6 ^E	4 ^E	9 ^E
Compared to other areas in Canada, is crime in your neighbourhood ...												
Higher	6	6	6	18	18	17	13	14	12	11	11	9 ^E
About the same	28	28	27	31	31	31	33	33	32	25	23	27
Lower	62	62	62	50	50	50	52	51	53	64	65	61
Don't know/not stated	4	3	4	2 ^E	F	F	2	2	2 ^E	F	F	F

^E use with caution

^F amount too unreliable to be published

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 4

Feelings of safety from crime, by type of victimization and sex, 2004

	Non-victim			Violent victimization			Non-violent victimization			Crime witness		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
number ('000)												
Total number of respondents who walked alone after dark	12,634	7,176	5,458	1,132	675	457	4,517	2,563	1,954	624	385	239
percent												
Walking alone after dark¹ did you feel...												
Very safe	46	57	32	37	49	18	38	50	24	49	60	32
Reasonably safe	46	38	55	45	41	50	48	43	55	43	36	53
Somewhat unsafe	6	3	11	15	9	24	12	6	19	7	F	14 ^E
Very unsafe	2	1	2	4 ^E	F	8 ^E	2	1 ^E	3 ^E	F	F	F
Don't know/not stated	F	F	F	F	0	F	F	F	F	0	0	0
number ('000)												
Total number of respondents who stayed home alone in the evening or at night	17,357	8,361	8,996	1,282	713	569	4,069	2,087	1,982	712	408	304
percent												
Home alone in the evening or at night² were you...												
Very worried	1	1 ^E	2	3 ^E	F	5 ^E	2	1 ^E	3	F	F	F
Somewhat worried	16	10	21	24	17	33	23	15	32	15	9 ^E	24
Not at all worried	82	89	75	73	82	62	74	84	64	83	90	72
Don't know/not stated	1 ^E	F	1 ^E	F	F	0	F	F	F	F	0	F
number ('000)												
Total number of respondents who used public transportation alone after dark	3,760	1,966	1,794	595	330	265	1,628	871	757	170	86	84
percent												
Using public transportation alone after dark¹ were you...												
Very worried	4	2 ^E	6	6 ^E	F	9 ^E	6	F	10	F	F	F
Somewhat worried	35	23	47	42	33	54	43	31	56	33	24 ^E	43
Not at all worried	61	75	46	52	63	37	51	67	33	63	75	50
Don't know/not stated	F	F	F	F	F	0	F	0	F	0	0	0

^E use with caution

F amount too unreliable to be published

1. Based on responses of people who engage in these activities.

2. Based on responses of people who are home alone in the evening or night.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 5

Protective measures taken in the past 12 months, by type of victimization and sex, 2004

Protective measures	Non-victim			Violent victimization			Non-violent victimization			Crime witness		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	percent											
Changed routine, activities or avoided certain places	19	16	23	52	44	62	39	33	45	32	29	37
Installed new locks or security bars	10	10	11	30	28	32	25	23	27	12	14	10 ^E
Installed burglar alarms or motion detector lights	8	8	9	16	16	15	17	17	16	14	14	14 ^E
Took a self-defence course	2	2	2	9	8	9	4	3	5	7 ^E	8 ^E	7 ^E
Obtained a dog	2	1	2	6	5 ^E	7 ^E	3	3	4	3 ^E	F	F
Changed phone number	1	1	1	8	7 ^E	9	2	2 ^E	3	F	F	F
Changed residence or moved	1	1	1	6	4 ^E	8	2	2 ^E	2	F	F	F
Obtained a gun	F	F	F	F	F	0	F	F	F	F	F	0

^E use with caution

^F amount too unreliable to be published

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 6

Percent of victims of violent and non-violent crimes that adopted protective measures in the past 12 months, by number of victimizations and sex, 2004

Number of victimizations	Protective measures ¹					
	Victims of violent crimes			Victims of non-violent crimes		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	percent					
Once	57	54	60	50	45	55
Twice	68	59	80	64	59	69
3 or more	75	69	82	75	71	78

1. Protective measures taken in the last 12 months to prevent crime include: changing one's routine, activities or avoided certain places; installing new locks or security bars; installing burglar alarms or motion detector lights; taking a self-defence course; changing one's phone number; obtaining a dog; obtaining a gun; or changing one's residence or moving.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 7

Respondents' perception of the criminal justice system, by type of victimization and sex, 2004

	Non-victim			Violent victimization			Non-violent victimization			Crime witness		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
percent												
Is the local police doing a good job...												
Enforcing the laws	64	63	64	43	41	46	51	50	53	58	54	63
Responding promptly to calls	54	53	55	43	40	47	47	48	47	52	50	55
Being approachable	67	67	67	52	49	56	63	62	64	70	69	72
Supplying information on reducing crime	54	52	56	36	36	38	44	42	46	52	53	51
Ensuring the safety of citizens	66	66	65	49	50	48	53	54	52	58	55	62
Treating people fairly	63	64	62	43	44	40	53	54	52	57	58	56
Are the criminal courts doing a good job...												
Providing justice quickly	16	17	16	13	14	12	12	13	12	11	12 ^E	10 ^E
Helping the victim	21	21	21	19	19	19	18	17	19	24	24	24
Determining whether or not the accused is guilty	27	30	24	26	29	23	27	31	23	24	25	22
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused	44	49	39	42	46	38	47	51	42	44	48	39
Is the prison system doing a good job...												
Supervising/controlling prisoners	30	33	28	33	32	34	31	33	29	34	37	29
Helping prisoners become law abiding	19	20	18	17	15	19	16	18	14	18	21	14
Is the parole system doing a good job...												
Releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend	17	18	15	18	19	18	16	19	14	18	18	18
Supervising offenders on parole	15	17	14	17	18	16	13	15	11	13	13	13

^E use with caution

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

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Youth custody and community services in Canada, 2004/2005

by Donna Calverley

Highlights

- In 2004/2005, there were about 31,700 young persons (aged 12 to 17 years) admitted to correctional services. Of those, 15,900 (50%) admissions were to custody and 15,800 (50%) admissions were to community supervision, with the majority (12,900 or 81%) of community supervision admissions being to probation.
- There were approximately 2,200 admissions to each of secure and open custody. The majority of admissions to custody (72% or 11,500) were to remand (pre-trial detention).
- Although admissions to remand decreased 7% from 2003/2004, as a proportion of total admissions to correctional services it was up to 36% in 2004/2005, from 34% in the previous year.
- Aboriginal youth are highly represented within correctional services. Nearly one-third of all females and just over one-in-five males admitted to sentenced custody were Aboriginal. Overall, Aboriginal youth made up one-quarter of all sentenced custody admissions in 2004/2005, yet they represent approximately 5% of the total youth population.
- On any given day in 2004/2005, there were approximately 13,100 young persons either in custody or under supervised probation in Canada. The majority of young persons in correctional services were on probation (87%), while 10% were in sentenced custody, and 3% were in remand.
- Coinciding with a decline in the youth crime rate, both the total rate of youth incarceration (sentenced custody and remand) and the probation rate decreased in 2004/2005 – by 10% and 16% respectively.

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Introduction

This *Juristat* provides an overview of the youth correctional population (12-to-17 year olds) in Canada for 2004/2005, the second year since the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) came into force (see Text box 1). The introduction of the YCJA represents a significant change in the way the criminal justice system in Canada treats young persons. In particular, the YCJA aims to increase diversion and reduce reliance on the use of incarceration.

Youth correctional supervision programs include sentenced custody (both secure and open), remand (pre-trial detention) and community supervision, which are administered under the authority of the provincial/territorial agencies responsible for youth corrections.

Sentenced custody is the most serious sentence that youth may receive. The YCJA allows a young person to be sentenced to custody only if he or she has committed a serious violent offence, has not complied with non-custodial sentences, has committed an offence for which an adult would be liable to imprisonment for more than two years, or in exceptional circumstances, where non-custodial sentences would be inconsistent with the purposes and principles of sentencing (s.39, YCJA). The *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) defined two levels of custody, open and secure. Under the YCJA, definitions of open and secure custody have been omitted. Instead, there is a requirement of two levels of custody distinguished by the level of restraint. For conventional purposes, in this *Juristat*, the two levels of restraint are referred to as open and secure custody.

Community supervision programs such as probation, the community portion of a custody and supervision order (CPCS), the intensive support and supervision order, and deferred custody and supervision, often include placing a number of restrictions on the young person. Community supervision orders are sometimes given with other sanctions and, at a minimum, require the young person to keep the peace, be of good behaviour and appear before the court as required.

Text box 1

The YCJA: A summary

In 1998, the Department of Justice Canada introduced a Strategy for Youth Justice that approached youth justice with a more inclusive framework, focusing on public awareness, crime prevention, education, child welfare, health, family and the community. One aspect of the Youth Justice Strategy was the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), which was developed in 1999 and enacted on April 1, 2003.

The YCJA integrates all areas of young peoples' lives including their mental health, education and welfare, putting emphasis on the long-term protection of the public, while also focusing on the rehabilitation and reintegration of the young person (Tustin and Lutes, 2005).

This legislation states in its preamble that the youth justice system "reserves its most serious intervention for the most serious crimes." The new Act implements a larger array of extrajudicial measures and, when entering the formal system, encourages the use of a number of new community supervision options – including deferred custody, the community portion of a custody and supervision order, and an intensive support and supervision order.

Finally, in an effort to reduce the use of remand, (Department of Justice Canada: Youth Justice) the YCJA has added two noteworthy requirements that must be taken into account before judges are able to place a young person in remand; remand cannot be used as a social measure, and it cannot be used if the young person could not be sentenced to custody if he/she were found guilty of the offence (s.29(1), YCJA).

Overall, the YCJA is, "an attempt to find a ... balance on youth justice issues" (Bala, 2003) by including provisions that would ensure that the most serious offenders serve longer sentences, while youth who have committed less serious offences are diverted from youth courts and custodial facilities.

Text box 2

Data sources and measures

The data in this *Juristat* are primarily drawn from the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey, and the Corrections Key Indicator Report (KIR), conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS). For 2004/2005, the KIR data were originally released in September 2006. Admissions and releases data for Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, as well as all community supervision data for Alberta were taken from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS), a new person-based survey that is being implemented by the CCJS, and which will eventually replace the YCCS survey. The ICSS collects detailed data pertaining to the delivery of both youth and adult correctional services in Canada.

This *Juristat* makes use of two basic indicators that describe the use of correctional services: the number of annual admissions to correctional facilities or to community supervision programs; and the average number, or count, of young persons under correctional supervision on any given day.

Admissions data are collected when an individual enters an institution or community supervision program, and describe and measure the caseflow in correctional agencies over time. While aggregate admissions include all persons passing through the correctional system, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals in the correctional system. The same person can be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g. from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year. Although the YCCS survey attempts to standardize the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictional operational systems may restrict uniform application of the survey definitions in some situations. For this reason, inter-jurisdictional comparisons of the number of admissions should be made with caution. Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements can be made about the trends within each jurisdiction.

Counts of the number of persons in custody or serving a sentence in the community at a given point in time provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as a key operational measure for the utilization of services, such as bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily counts in their facilities and monthly counts of offenders under community supervision. Average count statistics are more representative of longer term inmates and offenders serving longer term community supervision orders. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Methodology section at the end of the *Juristat*.

Young persons may also be remanded into custody based on the judge's decision that the young person poses a danger to society, that there may be a risk of failure to appear for court, or where detention is necessary to maintain confidence in the administration of justice. The YCJA also states that remand must not be used as a social measure (e.g., child protection, mental health) and that the court can not detain a young person if that person could not be committed to custody if found guilty.

Admissions to custody

Admissions to correctional services decline in 2004/2005

Consistent with the ongoing implementation of the principles and practices of the YCJA and a further decrease in the youth crime rate in 2004/2005, there were approximately 31,700 admissions to youth correctional services,¹ a decrease of 12% from 2003/2004.² This overall decrease was driven by a 20% decline in admissions to probation, from 16,100 in 2003/2004 to 12,900 in 2004/2005. Over the same period, admissions to custodial supervision (remand and sentenced custody) declined by 7%.

Sentenced custody declined by 7% in 2004/2005 due to a 12% decrease in admissions to secure custody. However, admissions to open custody remained stable (see Text table 1).

Remand represented majority of youth custodial admissions

Remand includes all persons who have not yet been sentenced but are being held in custody while awaiting trial or sentencing. In 2004/2005, there were approximately 11,500 admissions to remand, accounting for almost three-quarters of all custodial admissions. The number of admissions to remand did, however, decline by 7% from 2003/2004 (Text table 1).

Coinciding with the introduction of the YCJA, remand increased as a proportion of all custodial admissions - to 72% in 2004/2005, from 63% in the final year of the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) (Calverley, 2006).

As remand becomes a more significant proportion of custodial admissions, added pressures may be placed on the youth correctional system. Remand presents operational challenges for the correctional system that are different from those in handling sentenced offenders. These include the need for higher levels of security, regular transportation to and from court, and limits to the system's ability to deliver adequate programming (Johnson, 2002).

Although there was an overall decrease in remand admissions from 2003/2004 to 2004/2005, there was substantial variation among the provinces and territories, ranging from an 18% decline in Alberta to a 63% increase in the Northwest Territories (see Table 1).

Text table 1

Composition of admissions to youth correctional services, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005

	2003/2004		2004/2005		Percentage change from 2003/2004
	number	Percentage of total	number	Percentage of total	
Custodial supervision					
Sentenced custody	4,771	13.3	4,439	14.0	-7.0
Secure custody	2,548	7.1	2,245	7.1	-11.9
Open custody	2,223	6.2	2,194	6.9	-1.3
Remand	12,303	34.2	11,505	36.2	-6.5
Total custodial supervision	17,074	47.4	15,944	50.2	-6.6
Community supervision					
Probation	16,146	44.9	12,877	40.6	-20.2
YCJA sentences ¹	2,767	7.7	2,925	9.2	5.7
Total community supervision	18,913	52.6	15,802	49.8	-16.4
Total correctional services	35,987	100	31,746	100	-11.8

1. YCJA sentences include the community portion of a custody and supervision order and deferred custody and supervision.

Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, Ontario 12-to-15 year olds, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Text box 3

Jurisdictional comparisons

The administration of the youth justice system is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Correctional services provided to youth include remand, secure and open custody, and programs administered within the community such as probation and community service.

When examining the data contained in this *Juristat*, and the trends and differences among jurisdictions, it is important to consider that these results are, in part, a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada. As the data in this report are drawn from provincial/territorial administrative information systems, they are also sensitive to local case management practices as well as differences in the way information is maintained on these systems.

Also, overall levels of admissions and average counts will vary because of the informal (e.g. police discretion) and formal diversion measures (e.g. extrajudicial sanctions) employed by the police and the Crown. Such diversion programs have an impact on both the court case flow as well as intakes to correctional facilities and programs. Consequently, the reader is advised to consider table notes and use caution in making comparisons among jurisdictions. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Methodology section at the end of this *Juristat*.

Half of all youth held in remand released within one week

Just over half (52%) of all young persons admitted to remand were released within one week of admission.³ With the exception of the Northwest Territories and New Brunswick, in

which 78% and 63% of remanded young persons had served more than one week respectively, jurisdictions did not vary greatly by the amount of time young persons had served in remand (see Table 2). Notably, just over 1% of young persons spent more than six months in remand.

Admissions to sentenced custody decreased

In the second year of the YCJA, admissions to provincial and territorial sentenced custody⁴ decreased 7% from 4,800 in 2003/2004 to 4,400 in 2004/2005 (Text table 1). Admissions to secure custody declined 12%, while open custody admissions were relatively unchanged (-1%). Jurisdictions varied in the change in admissions to both open and secure custody. Between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005, the percent change in admissions to secure custody ranged from a 41% decline in Nova Scotia to increases of 19% in Manitoba and 33% in the Northwest Territories. There was also some variation in admissions to open custody among jurisdictions, ranging from a 40% decline in Nova Scotia to a 45% increase in the Northwest Territories (Table 1).

Text box 4

Sentence Length

When examining sentence lengths, it is important to distinguish between the sentence ordered by the youth court judge and the length of time served upon release. Appeals, reviews and the effects of sentences served concurrently or consecutively (aggregate) may influence the amount of time served. In many instances, time served on release will differ from the time ordered at sentencing.

Majority of youth spent less than 6 months in either open or secure custody

In 2004/2005, 21% of young persons who entered open custody⁵ spent more than six months in custody. Jurisdictions were quite variable in the time young persons spent in open custody, in Ontario 31% of young persons spent more than six months in open custody, whereas only 3% of young persons in open custody in Newfoundland and Labrador spent more than six months (Table 2).

Overall, a smaller percentage (10%) of young persons nationally spent more than six months in secure custody. Most (44%) releases from secure custody occurred within one month, whereas 30% of releases from open custody occurred within one month. Jurisdictions were more consistent in the time young persons spent in secure custody when compared to open custody. With the exception of Manitoba, where 37% of young persons admitted were released after six months, figures ranged from 7% in British Columbia to 19% in Ontario.

Using data from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS), releases from either secure or open custody can be aggregated into one 'sentenced custody' length. For example, under the YCCS, if a youth spent one month in secure custody and 3 months in open custody these sentence lengths would be reported separately, hiding the total time spent in custody. Under the ICSS, total time spent in sentenced custody can be analysed more accurately. In 2004/2005, in Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick, of the total releases from sentenced custody, 24% of releases occurred within one month, 62% of releases occurred between one and six months, and 15% of all releases occurred after six months of admittance. On average, of the total amount of time spent in sentenced custody, youth spent 60% (or 73 days) of time in secure custody and 40% (or 49 days) in open custody.

Many jurisdictions admitted a larger proportion of youth for property offences than violent offences

In 2004/2005, violent offences⁶ accounted for 45% of all sentenced custody admissions, followed by property offences⁷ (22%), other *Criminal Code* offences⁸ (20%), and other offences⁹ (13%) (see Table 3).

The national proportion of admissions to sentenced custody for violent offences was driven by Manitoba, in which 66% of all admissions to sentenced custody were for violent offences (followed next by the Northwest Territories at 40% and British Columbia at 38%). In most jurisdictions, there was a higher proportion of admissions for property offences than violent offences, including Newfoundland and Labrador (59% versus 29%), Nova Scotia (32% versus 26%), New Brunswick (35% versus 28%), Ontario (38% versus 30%), Alberta (16% versus 12%) and the Northwest Territories (58% versus 40%).

In 2004/2005, 37% of all young persons were admitted to remand for other *Criminal Code* offences, which mainly include administrative offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct. Admissions to remand for violent offences accounted for 27% of all admissions, followed by property offences (26%),

and other offences (9%). The largest proportion of remand admissions for violent offences was reported in Manitoba at 54% and the smallest in Alberta at 9%.

Young persons admitted to community supervision

Admissions to probation also decline

Admissions to probation¹⁰ decreased 20% from 16,100 in 2003/2004 to 12,900 in 2004/2005 (Text table 1). Compared to custodial supervision, probation as a proportion of all admissions to correctional services has decreased substantially, from 45% in 2003/2004 to 41% in 2004/2005.

Under the YOA, probation was sometimes imposed as a measure to reintegrate youth back into the community after a period of sentenced custody. With the introduction of the YCJA, a period of community supervision became a mandatory component of most custody orders, likely reducing the need to impose a probation order.

Not all jurisdictions experienced a decline in probation between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005. Probation admissions remained stable in British Columbia, and increased in New Brunswick and Manitoba (see Text table 2).

Half of releases from probation occurred after 1 year of admission

In 2004/2005, among the six reporting jurisdictions,¹¹ there were a total of 15,600 releases from probation. More than one-third of releases occurred within 6 months to 1 year of admission, while half of probationers spent more than 1 year under supervision. Generally, very few releases occurred within 1 month (see Table 4).

Two in five admissions to probation were for property offences

In 2004/2005, 43% of young persons were admitted to probation for property offences,¹² compared to remand, where 26%, and sentenced custody, where 22% of youth were admitted for property offences.

With the exception of British Columbia and Manitoba, all jurisdictions reported property offences making up the largest proportion of admissions by most serious offence, ranging from 37% in Nova Scotia to 56% in Newfoundland and Labrador (Table 3).

Increase in the use of YCJA community sentences

With the inclusion of the new deferred custody sentence and the community portion of custody and supervision orders (CPCS), there are more community corrections sanctions available under the YCJA. Deferred custody sentences are similar to conditional sentences which are available in the adult system. Deferred custody allows a young person who would otherwise be sentenced to custody to serve the sentence in

Text table 2

Admissions of young persons to probation, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	2003/2004	2004/2005	Change from 2003/2004	
			number	percentage
Newfoundland and Labrador	430 ^r	344		-20.0
Prince Edward Island	133	..		...
Nova Scotia ¹	771	535		-30.6
New Brunswick	439	450		2.5
Quebec	4,014	3,663		-8.7
Ontario	11,091	7,824		-29.5
Manitoba	788	931		18.1
Saskatchewan	1,339	1,265		-5.5
Alberta ²	2,119	1,723		...
British Columbia	1,664	1,668		0.2
Yukon	20	..		...
Northwest Territories	..	..		...
Nunavut	..	..		...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. The reduction in probation between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 may be partially attributable to a change in data capture systems.

2. Data for 2004/2005 have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata. Comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

the community under a number of strict conditions. Any breach of conditions may result in the young person being sent to custody. The community portion of a custody and supervision order is meant to allow a smoother transition from custody to the community.¹³ A CPCS is similar to a federal statutory release where, ordinarily, the final one-third of a custody sentence is served under community supervision (s.42 (1)(n), YCJA).

In 2004/2005, there were approximately 1,300 admissions to deferred custody¹⁴ - an increase of 16% from the previous year (see Text table 3).

In 2004/2005, there were approximately 2,700 admissions to the CPCS,¹⁵ which remained stable from 2003/2004.

Characteristics of young persons admitted to correctional services

In 2004/2005, male youth made up the majority of admissions to correctional services. Female youth¹⁶ accounted for 21% of all young persons admitted to remand and 16% of all sentenced custody admissions. Historically, a larger proportion of youth serving probation sentences than sentenced custody sentences are females and this was the case in 2004/2005, where females represented 22% of all probation admissions (see Text table 4).

Among the provinces and territories, there was substantial variation in the proportion of female youth admitted to correctional services. The proportion of females admitted to remand ranged from 11% in Nova Scotia to 26% in the

Northwest Territories, while the proportion of females admitted to sentenced custody ranged from 8% to 28% in the same two jurisdictions. The proportion of females admitted to probation showed less variation ranging from 17% in New Brunswick to 26% in British Columbia.

One in five admissions to correctional services were Aboriginal youth

Aboriginal youth accounted for one in five admissions to correctional services.¹⁷ At the same time, Aboriginal youth represented approximately 5% of the total youth population. There were approximately 6,200 admissions of Aboriginal youth to some type of correctional service. One-quarter of all admissions to sentenced custody, 22% of all admissions to remand and 15% of all admissions to probation were of Aboriginal youth (Text table 4).

Aboriginal youth had higher levels of representation in sentenced custody compared to their representation in the Canadian youth population in almost all provinces and territories. For example, in British Columbia six times as many Aboriginal youth were admitted to sentenced custody than their representation in the youth population.

Female Aboriginal youth represent considerable share of all female admissions

While both Aboriginal male and female youth are highly represented in correctional services, this was particularly true for Aboriginal female youth. For example, in 2004/2005, female Aboriginal youth represented 35% of all female youth admissions to secure custody and 29% of all female admissions to open custody, whereas Aboriginal male youth represented

Text table 3

Admissions of young persons to the community portion of custody and supervision orders and to deferred custody and supervision orders, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Community portion of a custody sentence ¹			Deferred custody and supervision ²		
	2003/2004	2004/2005	Change from 2003/2004 to 2004/2005	2003/2004	2004/2005	Change from 2003/2004 to 2004/2005
	number	percentage	percentage	number	percentage	percentage
Total	2,710	2,693	-0.6	1,086	1,262	16.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	95 ^r	116	22.1	9 ^r	19	111.1
Prince Edward Island	24	..	...	..	..	...
Nova Scotia	44	121	175.0	73	98	34.2
New Brunswick	128	175	36.7	111	107	-3.6
Quebec	..	..	...	69	148	114.5
Ontario	1,864	1,502	-19.4	449	521	16.0
Manitoba	193	287	48.7	112	121	8.0
Saskatchewan	..	214	...	..	167	...
Alberta ³	366	468	27.9	263	248	-5.7
British Columbia	..	..	...	..	..	...
Yukon	..	..	...	..	..	...
Northwest Territories	20	24	20.0	x	x	...
Nunavut	10	..	...	..	..	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut.

2. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut.

3. Data for 2004/2005 have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata. Comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Text table 4

Characteristics of young persons admitted to correctional services, 2004/2005

	Remand		Sentenced custody		Probation		Total youth population 2001 (age 12 to 17 years)
	Aboriginal	Female	Aboriginal	Female	Aboriginal	Female	Aboriginal
	percentage						percentage
Total¹	21.7	20.9	24.9	15.8	15.4	21.6	4.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	6.5	18.2	3.4	12.1	3.5	18.0	5.3
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.4
Nova Scotia	9.8	11.0	5.5	8.1	4.9	17.8	2.7
New Brunswick	9.5	16.1	7.2	15.4	4.7	17.3	3.0
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.6
Ontario	8.1	20.7	11.6	16.4	6.7	21.2	2.2
Manitoba	73.6	12.7	84.2	14.4	54.9	23.8	19.0
Saskatchewan	..	..	74.7	11.7	65.7	25.2	19.3
Alberta	37.2	22.2	36.7	13.7	31.6	21.6	7.5
British Columbia	36.2	24.1	39.3	19.2	26.6	26.1	6.6
Yukon	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.9
Northwest Territories	92.3	25.6	96.2	28.3	..	..	62.7
Nunavut	..	..	..	..	..	..	94.8

.. not available for a specific reference period

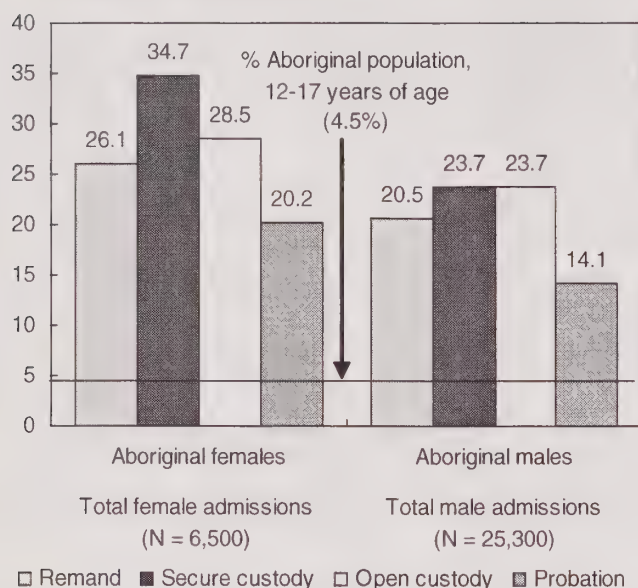
1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey; Demography Division, Population Estimates.

Figure 1

Aboriginal male and female youth are highly represented as a percentage of all males and females admitted to correctional services

% Aboriginal males and females



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec Saskatchewan, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey; Demography Division, Population Estimates.

24% of all male admissions to each of secure and open custody (see Figure 1).

A higher proportion of 12-to-15 year olds on probation than in sentenced custody

In 2004/2005, just over 1 in 10, or 12%, of youth admitted to sentenced custody were under fifteen years of age, whereas about 1 in 5, or 21% of youth admitted to probation were under fifteen¹⁸ (see Figure 2).

Generally, the types of offences for which young persons are admitted to probation rather than sentenced custody tend to be less serious, which are consistent with the types of offences that younger youths commit.

Average counts

The incarceration rate is the average daily number of young persons in custody per 10,000 youth aged 12- to-17 in the population. This number describes the level of incarceration in relation to the number of young persons in the population and

Text box 5

Aboriginal justice

Most Aboriginal societies focus on holistic understanding and inclusive decision-making when finding a "solution" within the context of crime (Chartrand, 2005). Both the *Criminal Code* and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* include provisions that are intended to respond to the high level of Aboriginal representation in the justice system as well as Aboriginal needs.

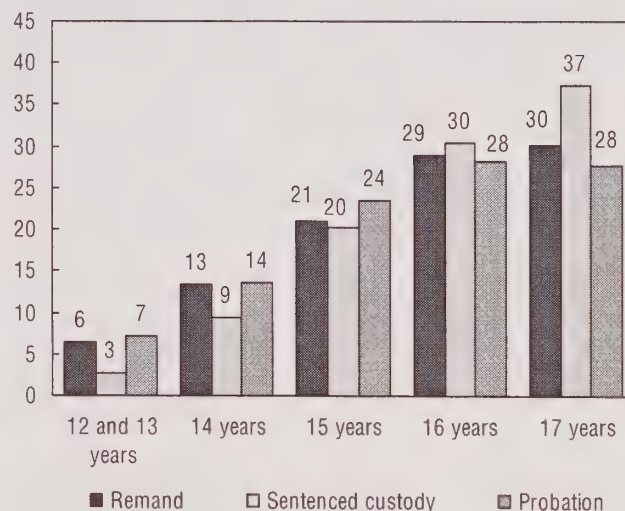
In 1996, the *Criminal Code* introduced principles of sentencing consistent with the Aboriginal model. The objectives of sentencing include "to provide reparations for harm done to victims or to the community" and "to promote a sense of responsibility in offenders and acknowledgement of the harm done to victims and the community" (s.718 (e&f), *Criminal Code*). The YCJA also acknowledges the need to respect cultural and linguistic differences of Aboriginal persons and to respond to their specific needs. In this regard, part 4 of the YCJA states that, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal young persons, all available sanctions other than custody should be considered, (s.38 (2)(d), YCJA). Through conferencing provisions and its guiding principles, the YCJA encourages those administering the Act to "prevent crime by addressing the circumstances underlying a young person's offending behaviour" (s.3 (1)(a)(i)).

permits comparisons over time by taking into account changes in the size of the Canadian population of young persons.

Figure 2

A higher proportion of 12-to-15 year olds on probation than in sentenced custody

percent



Note: Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec Saskatchewan, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Decline in the incarceration rate continues

The incarceration rate¹⁹ has decreased by one-third since 2002/2003 and 10% from the prior year. Although the rate has decreased substantially since the implementation of the YCJA, the overall youth incarceration rate has been on the decline over the last decade, decreasing 57% since 1995/1996 (see Text table 5).

In most jurisdictions the initial large decrease in 2003/2004 was followed by another, somewhat smaller, decrease in 2004/2005. The incarceration rate varied greatly throughout the provinces and territories, from 3 per 10,000 youth population in Prince Edward Island to 56 per 10,000 youth population in the Northwest Territories.

Sentenced custody counts continue to decline

In 2004/2005, an average of 1,300 young persons were in sentenced custody on any given day in Canada, a decline of 16% from 2003/2004, and an overall decline of about 60% since the implementation of the YCJA (see Figure 3). Among the young persons in sentenced custody in 2004/2005, there were, on average, 700 young persons in secure custody and 600 in open custody, a decrease of 15% and 18% from 2003/2004 respectively (see Table 5).

In 2004/2005, jurisdictions varied substantially in the rate of young persons in sentenced custody per 10,000 youth population, ranging from 2.5 in Prince Edward Island to 39.8 in the Northwest Territories (see Text table 6).

Text table 5

Incarceration rates of young persons per 10,000 youth population, 1995/1996 to 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Incarceration rate ¹									
	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Total²	18.7	18.0	17.2	16.6	15.4	14.4	13.5	12.6	9.0	8.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	26.0	28.1	24.0	22.9	21.4	20.6	22.1	24.2	12.8	12.7
Prince Edward Island	29.1	33.0	23.1	18.8	17.9	14.9	13.7	12.4	5.7	2.5
Nova Scotia	22.9	23.0	19.5	19.5	18.0	18.4	15.8	17.0	10.0	7.4
New Brunswick	31.4	31.1	25.6	23.2	23.5	24.2	21.6	18.0	12.6	12.7
Quebec	10.5	8.8	4.2	9.1	8.7	8.4	7.9	7.5	5.5	4.7
Ontario ³	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.2	8.5
Manitoba	30.1	32.8	32.5	31.0	30.1	27.9	26.4	25.5	19.7	17.5
Saskatchewan	36.9	37.3	39.6	41.0	36.2	35.6	35.3	34.1	28.0	25.5
Alberta	24.4	22.3	18.9	17.8	16.4	14.4	13.5	11.8	8.3	7.5
British Columbia	13.5	13.0	12.2	11.2	10.2	8.9	7.9	6.7	4.7	4.7
Yukon	56.4	56.2	63.6	50.4	46.8	32.2	25.1	21.6	14.1	17.7
Northwest Territories ⁴	142.9	157.3	174.4	110.7	157.0	133.9	134.8	109.2	59.2	56.2
Nunavut ⁵	...	...	...	...	..	36.6	17.0	38.3	29.1	34.1

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. The incarceration rate is the average daily counts of remand, secure and open custody per 10,000 youths aged 12 to 17 in the population.

2. National figures excludes Ontario and Nunavut for all reference years.

3. Ontario 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 incarceration rate includes partial estimates for 12-to-15 year olds.

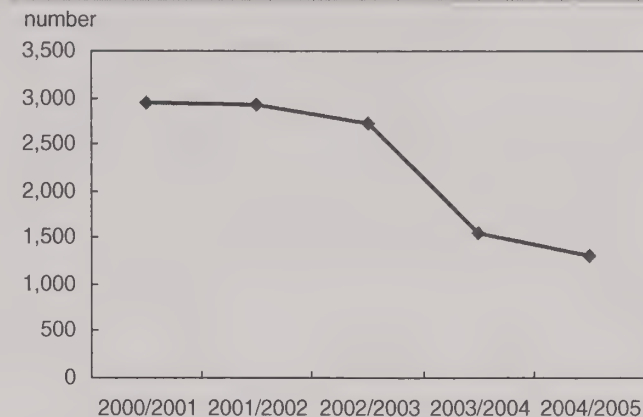
4. Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/2000 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999. Therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

5. Nunavut data for 1999/2000 are unavailable. Prior to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, data for this territory are included as part of the Northwest Territories, therefore caution is advised when making comparisons.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report; Demography Division, Population Estimates.

Figure 3

Average count of young persons in sentenced custody continues to decline



Note: Data includes estimates for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 for Ontario 12-to-15 year olds.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

A substantial decrease in the average counts of young persons in sentenced custody has occurred in all jurisdictions since the introduction of the YCJA. The most notable declines have taken place in Prince Edward Island (-78%), Nova Scotia (-64%), Ontario (-62%) and the Northwest Territories (-60%).

Remand counts increases as a proportion of total custodial services

Remand has increased as a proportion of the custodial population,²⁰ from one-quarter in 2002/2003 to one-third in 2004/2005 due to the decreases in sentenced custody rates since the introduction of the YCJA (see Text table 7).

Although remand has increased as a proportion of the custodial population, the rate of young persons in remand has remained stable at about 3 per 10,000 youth population (Text table 6).

In 2004/2005, jurisdictions varied in the rate of young persons held on remand, ranging from 0.3 per 10,000 youth population in Prince Edward Island to 16 in the Northwest Territories.

Probation declines

On any given day in 2004/2005, there were 11,300 young persons on probation, down from 13,500 in 2003/2004 (see Table 6).

The probation rate is the number of young persons on probation per 10,000 youth. Probation rates have been declining gradually,

as the rates of youth being charged by police and convicted by the courts have been dropping. In 2004/2005, the probation rate was 73 young persons on probation²¹ per 10,000 young persons in the population, 16% lower than in the previous year, and a 35% decline since 2000/2001 (see Text table 8).

In 2004/2005, the rate of young persons on probation ranged from 39 per 10,000 youth population in British Columbia to 153 in Newfoundland and Labrador.

More youth on new YCJA community supervision provisions

Deferred custody allows a young person who would otherwise be sentenced to custody, to serve the sentence in the community under a number of strict conditions. In 2004/2005, there were, on average, 465 young persons on deferred custody, an 94% increase from the previous year (see Text table 9).

The average count of young persons on the community portion of a custody and supervision order has doubled since 2003/2004, from 264 in 2003/2004 to 548 in 2004/2005.

Text table 6

Average daily counts of young persons in remand and sentenced custody per 10,000 youth population, by jurisdiction, 2002/2003 to 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹			2003/ 2004 to	2002/ 2003 to	Sentenced custody ²			2003/ 2004 to	2002/ 2003 to
				2004/ 2005	2004/ 2005				2004/ 2005	2004/ 2005
	rate					rate				
	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	Change in average counts		2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	Change in average counts	
	number			percentage		number			percentage	
Total	3.2	2.8	2.8	-1.2	-12.5	7.8	6.2	5.2	-15.0	-32.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.9	2.1	2.0	-2.1	-31.1	21.3	10.6	10.7	1.2	-49.6
Prince Edward Island	1.4	0.8	0.3	-69.4	-82.3	11.4	4.9	2.5	-49.2	-78.2
Nova Scotia	3.0	2.5	2.0	-17.1	-31.1	14.0	7.6	5.1	-32.9	-63.7
New Brunswick	1.7	2.0	2.2	8.2	27.0	16.4	10.4	10.1	-2.6	-38.2
Quebec	1.8	1.4	1.4	4.7	-19.4	5.7	4.2	3.2	-23.8	-44.0
Ontario	..	4.2	3.6	-13.6	...	12.9	6.1	4.9	-20.1	-62.3
Manitoba	10.3	9.0	8.5	-5.9	-18.1	15.1	10.3	8.3	-19.8	-45.2
Saskatchewan	7.8	7.9	8.1	2.7	3.5	26.3	20.2	17.4	-13.6	-33.7
Alberta	3.5	3.1	3.0	-5.9	-15.5	8.3	5.2	4.6	-11.0	-45.0
British Columbia	2.1	1.9	2.0	6.7	-1.3	4.7	2.8	2.7	-2.7	-42.2
Yukon	5.0	3.5	3.5	0.7	-28.6	16.7	10.6	14.2	34.2	-14.9
Northwest Territories	9.7	9.5	16.4	72.9	68.5	99.5	52.1	39.8	-23.6	-60.0
Nunavut	12.4	15.9	13.1	-17.5	5.8	25.9	13.2	21.0	58.4	-19.1

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Ontario is excluded from the total for all years.

2. Includes estimates for Ontario 12-to-15 year olds in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report; Demography Division, Population Estimates.

Text table 7

Average count of young persons in remand, 2002/2003 to 2004/2005

	2002/2003		2003/2004		2004/2005	
	Average count	Total custody	Average count	Total custody	Average count	Total custody
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total¹ – Remand	495	25.4	440	31.6	438	34.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	13	12.1	9	16.1	8	15.9
Prince Edward Island	2	11.8	1	17.1	0 ^s	8.8
Nova Scotia	22	17.4	19	24.6	15	27.7
New Brunswick	10	9.5	12	16.6	13	16.9
Quebec	98	23.8	77	24.9	82	30.7
Ontario	..	...	411	40.7	478	42.7
Manitoba	104	40.5	91	45.6	86	48.3
Saskatchewan	73	22.9	73	27.9	74	31.8
Alberta	96	29.5	86	37.8	81	39.1
British Columbia	67	30.6	62	40.7	66	43.2
Yukon	1	22.6	1	27.5	1	21.6
Northwest Territories	4	8.9	4	13.8	7	27.3
Nunavut	5	32.4	6	54.3	5	37.1

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Total excludes Ontario.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

Text table 8

Probation rate per 10,000 youth population, 2000/2001 to 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Probation rate ¹				
	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Total²	112.2	113.5	107.8	86.5	72.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	184.3	182.7	184.4	158.9	152.9
Prince Edward Island	144.6	128.4	122.3	109.7	88.6
Nova Scotia ³	147.2	127.3	116.5	108.0	88.0
New Brunswick	..	131.7	141.2	111.3	93.6
Quebec	88.8	99.9	93.7	72.0	64.6
Ontario ⁴	103.1	201.7	99.2	146.0	97.5
Manitoba	202.0	205.3	203.6	178.0	135.4
Saskatchewan	188.9	190.2	192.6	163.6	150.5
Alberta	106.7	101.9	95.4	76.8	63.0
British Columbia	84.9 ^r	81.9	75.2	53.7	38.5
Yukon	225.8	158.2	116.1	95.2	56.8
Northwest Territories	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	..	44.6	..	47.7	52.5

.. not available for a specific reference period

^r revised

1. The probation rate is the averaged month-end counts of probation per 10,000 youth population.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, total probation excludes New Brunswick, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for all reference years.

3. The reduction in probation between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 may be partially attributable to a change in data capture systems.

4. Ontario 12-to-15 year olds are excluded in 2002/2003.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report; Demography Division, Population Estimates.

Text table 9

Average count of young persons on the community portion of a custody and supervision order and on a deferred custody and supervision order, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Community portion of a custody and supervision order ¹			Deferred custody and supervision ²		
	2003/2004	2004/2005	Change from 2003/2004 to 2004/2005	2003/2004	2004/2005	Change from 2003/2004 to 2004/2005
	number	number	percentage	number	number	percentage
Total	264	548	107.1	240	465	93.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	4	13	234.0	2	2	0.0
Prince Edward Island	2	4	100.0	0	21	...
Nova Scotia	..	..	...	..	..	...
New Brunswick	7	20	181.2	24	40	64.8
Quebec	..	..	...	0 ^s	0 ^s	0.0 ^s
Ontario	147	298	97.1	67	140	108.7
Manitoba	19	33	88.8	28	37	32.0
Saskatchewan	31	61	98.1	38	73	93.6
Alberta	42	74	76.4	55	88	58.6
British Columbia	11	40	262.2	26	65	147.9
Yukon	1	2	185.7	0 ^s	0 ^s	0.0 ^s
Northwest Territories	..	..	...	..	..	...
Nunavut	1	4	162.5	..	2	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Total excludes Nova Scotia, Quebec and the Northwest Territories.

2. Total excludes Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

Summary

In 2004/2005, the second year of the implementation of the YCJA, there was a continued decline in the volume of admissions to correctional services. Total correctional services declined 12% from the previous year to about 31,700 admissions. This decline was driven by a decrease in admissions to probation (-20%), followed by smaller declines in admissions to sentenced custody (-7%) and remand (-7%).

Although admissions to remand decreased, they increased as a proportion of admissions to correctional services, from 34% in 2003/2004 to 36% in 2004/2005.

As is the case in adult correctional services, Aboriginal youth are highly represented as well. Nearly one-third of all females and just over one-in-five males admitted to sentenced custody were Aboriginal. Overall, Aboriginal youth made up one of every four admissions to sentenced custody in 2004/2005, yet they represent approximately 5% of the total youth population.

On any given day in 2004/2005, there were approximately 13,100 young persons either in custody or under supervised probation in Canada. The majority of young persons in correctional services were on probation (87%), while 10% were in sentenced custody, and 3% were in remand. Coinciding

with a decline in the youth crime rate, both the total rate of youth incarceration (sentenced custody and remand) and the probation rate decreased in 2004/2005.

Methodology

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on youth correctional services in Canada through three surveys: the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey, the Key Indicator Report and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) which is currently being implemented and is intended to eventually replace the YCCS. Currently, data from the ICSS are presented in this *Juristat* for Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick as well as Alberta community supervision. The YCCS collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on young persons between 12 and 17 years old under some form of provincial or territorial correctional supervision. The ICSS collects person-level descriptive data on young persons in participating jurisdictions. Data from the Key Indicator Report measure the average counts of young persons in custody (remand, secure, and open) and on probation. Jurisdictions submit monthly counts in aggregate format. Average counts include all young persons on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally

required to be at a youth correctional facility and are present at the time the count is taken by correctional facility officials. Average counts for young persons on probation include those on supervised probation at the end of the month.

The data are provided by the various provincial and territorial ministries, and the departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. As a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. These surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis.

Given that most of the data are reported in aggregate form, there are limits to the types of analyses or cross-tabulations that can be performed. For example, data such as median age of offenders and median sentence length for each province cannot be combined to calculate a national median for all offenders.

Unit of analysis

Admissions data measure the movement of young offenders through admissions to different types of supervision. The following example provides an illustration of how admissions for one young offender are tabulated by the YCCS survey. Where a youth has been denied judicial interim release and is held in remand until he or she is sentenced to serve a term of secure custody, followed by a term of open custody and probation, the YCCS counts:

e.g. remand + secure + open + probation (all served consecutively)

Admissions:	1 admission to remand
	1 admission to secure custody
	1 admission to open custody
	1 admission to probation

Youth transferred from one facility to another while still under the same level of supervision are not counted as new admissions. New admission counts also exclude young offenders placed in secure custody as transfers from open custody facilities. These "administrative" transfers are for a short period of time, not to exceed 15 days, and are authorized by a senior correctional official. In addition, youth returning from a period of temporary absence are not included as new admissions.

Glossary of terms

Aboriginal identity: Indicates whether the youth is an Aboriginal person. Aboriginal identity includes North American, Métis and Inuit registered under the *Indian Act* and those that are non-registered. Please note that this variable is self-reported and data availability varies among jurisdictions.

Admission: Refers to the youth's commencement of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody, probation, intensive support and supervision, and deferred custody). For the YCCS survey, a new admission is counted each time an offender changes status.

Age: Refers to the age of the offender at the time of admission into a youth facility or community program.

Community portion of a custody and community supervision order: Under the YCJA most custody sentences have a community supervision component attached. The community supervision portion can be up to half as long as the custodial period, and the periods combined must not exceed the maximum sentence length specified in the YCJA.

Custody: A status that requires the young offender to spend time in a designated correctional facility, either in secure custody, open custody or remand as ordered by the youth court.

Deferred custody and supervision: A deferred custody and supervision order allows a young person, who would otherwise be sentenced to custody, to serve his/her sentence in the community. A deferred custody and supervision order is similar to a conditional sentence of imprisonment for adults.

Intensive support and supervision program (ISSP): Similar to probation, the intensive support and supervision order is served in the community under conditions, but an ISSP provides closer monitoring and support than probation.

Month-end probation count - Data are an indication of the current monthly caseload of young offenders on supervised probation.

Most serious offence (Youth Custody and Community Services Survey): The YCCS survey categorizes the "most serious offence" (MSO) according to the offence classification scheme currently being used by the Youth Court Survey. The MSO categories include the following:

1. **Violent offences:** include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion. Violent offences involve the use or threatened use of violence against a person. Robbery is considered a violent offence because unlike other theft offences, it involves the use or threat of violence.
2. **Drug related offences:** include offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act* such as importing/exporting narcotics, trafficking in narcotics, possession of narcotics, cultivation, trafficking in drugs, and possession of drugs.
3. **Property offences:** include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief. Property offences involve unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person.
4. **Other Criminal Code offences:** include offences such as prostitution, impaired operation of a motor vehicle, escaped custody, failure to appear, disorderly conduct, soliciting, and other offences against the administration of justice.

5. **YOA/YCJA offences:** include offences such as failure to comply with a court ordered disposition, and contempt against youth court.
6. **Provincial/territorial, municipal and other federal offences:** include offences such as provincial liquor offences, provincial/territorial traffic violations, violations of municipal by-laws, and violations of other federal statutes such as offences under the *Income Tax Act* and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

Open custody: Under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, each province or territory must have at least two levels of custody which are distinguished by the degree of restraint of the young persons within them. For conventional purposes, this *Juristat* has designated the levels of restraint as open and secure custody.

Probation/supervised probation: A common type of community-based disposition, where the offender is placed under the supervision of a probation officer or other designated person. This includes both supervised and unsupervised probation.

Release: Refers to the completion of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation). For the YCCS survey, a new release is counted each time an offender changes type of correctional supervision.

Remand: To hold a young person temporarily in custody, pursuant to a Remand Warrant, while awaiting trial or sentencing, or prior to commencement of a custodial disposition.

Secure custody: Under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, each province or territory must have at least two levels of custody which are distinguished by the degree of restraint of the young persons within them. For conventional purposes, this *Juristat* has designated the levels of restraint as open and secure custody.

Sentenced custody: Refers to both secure and open custody.

Sentence length: This refers to the aggregate sentence or total amount of days a young person is ordered to serve under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The specific number of days must be for an uninterrupted period of time during which the youth is under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director. For multiple *custodial sentences* (i.e., secure and open custody), if sentences are concurrent then the sentence length is the longest sentence; if the sentences are consecutive then the sentence length is the sum of all custodial sentences; and if sentences are both concurrent and consecutive then the aggregate sentence is the sum of both types as calculated above.

Time served: Refers to the aggregate time served or total number of days a young person spent in custody upon

completion of an uninterrupted period of time during which time the youth was under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director.

Young person: A person who is twelve years of age or older, but less than eighteen years of age, at the time of committing an offence.

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Endnotes

1. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Ontario 12-to-15 year olds, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
2. Ibid.
3. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
4. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Ontario 12-to-15 year olds, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
5. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
6. Violent offences include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion.
7. Property offences include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief.
8. Other *Criminal Code* offences include offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct.
9. Other offences include drug related offences, YOA/YCJA, and provincial/territorial/municipal/other federal offences.
10. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Ontario 12-to-15 year olds, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
11. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
12. See endnote 7.

13. See Department of Justice Canada, "YCJA Explained".
14. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut.
15. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut.
16. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Excludes Ontario and Nunavut for all reference years.
20. Excludes Ontario.
21. Excludes New Brunswick, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Table 1

Admissions of young persons to custody, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Remand			Secure custody			Open custody		
	2003/2004	2004/2005	Change from 2003/2004	2003/2004	2004/2005	Change from 2003/2004	2003/2004	2004/2005	Change from 2003/2004
	number	number	percentage	number	number	percentage	number	number	percentage
Total¹	12,303	11,505	-6.5	2,548	2,245	-11.5	2,223	2,194	3.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	159 ^r	154	-3.1	86 ^r	52	-39.5	59 ^r	64	8.5
Prince Edward Island	17	..	...	11	..	...	8	..	...
Nova Scotia	188	163	-13.3	17	10	-41.2	106	64	-39.6
New Brunswick	295	275	-6.8	125	137	9.6	119	130	9.2
Quebec	1,165	1,347	15.6	651	569	-12.6	415	362	-12.8
Ontario (16 and 17 year olds)	5,640	4,955	-12.1	816	630	-22.8	709	739	4.2
Manitoba	1,539	1,552	0.8	114	136	19.3	261	243	-6.9
Saskatchewan	..	..	...	239	160	-33.1	256	216	-15.6
Alberta	2,016	1,655	-17.9	497	486	-2.2	239	249	4.2
British Columbia	1,301	1,404	7.9	242	225	-7.0	315	343	8.9
Yukon	23	..	...	x	..	...	8	..	...
Northwest Territories	24	39	62.5	18	24	33.3	20	29	45.0
Nunavut	25	..	...	13	..	...	11	..	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

.. not applicable

^r revised

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

1. Totals exclude Prince Edward Island, Ontario 12-to-15 year olds, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 2

Releases from remand, secure, and open custody, by time served, 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹				Secure custody ²			Open custody ²		
	1 week or less	>1 week to 1 month	>1 month to 6 months	>6 months	1 month or less	>1 to 6 months	>6 months	1 month or less	>1 to 6 months	>6 months
	percentage									
Total	51.7	28.4	18.5	1.4	44.4	45.3	10.3	30.2	48.7	21.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	50.3	38.2	11.5	0.0	36.7	45.0	18.3	20.9	76.1	3.0
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	57.6	26.6	15.8	0.0	42.9	42.9	14.3	20.6	65.4	14.0
New Brunswick	37.1	38.2	24.3	0.4	31.2	52.5	16.3	29.1	64.6	6.3
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario	52.9	28.0	17.5	1.6	39.2	41.9	18.9	25.9	43.4	30.7
Manitoba	51.1	23.9	23.5	1.5	30.8	32.3	36.9	31.9	60.0	7.7
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta	52.2	25.6	21.0	1.2	52.9	37.7	9.4	29.1	58.6	12.3
British Columbia	48.2	35.7	15.6	0.6	47.1	45.5	7.3	53.8	41.1	5.1
Yukon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northwest Territories	22.5	32.5	45.0	0.0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Total remand excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

2. Total open and secure custody excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 3

Distribution of young persons admitted to remand, sentenced custody and probation, by most serious offence, 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹				Sentenced custody (secure and open) ¹				Probation ²			
	Violent ³	Property ⁴	Other	Other	Violent ³	Property ⁴	Other	Other	Violent ³	Property ⁴	Other	Other
			Criminal Code ⁵				Offences ⁶				Criminal Code ⁵		Offences^{6}	Criminal Code^{5}	Offences^{6}
percentage												
Total	27.1	26.3	37.4	9.1	45.2	21.6	20.4	12.7	32.0	42.6	17.9	7.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	11.8	35.3	52.9	0.0	28.7	59.3	12.0	0.0	39.1	56.3	3.4	1.1
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	25.2	25.8	36.2	12.9	25.7	32.4	29.7	12.2	25.4	36.8	17.3	20.5
New Brunswick	20.8	30.2	23.4	25.7	28.2	35.3	21.1	14.3	28.1	43.7	10.9	17.3
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario	24.0	24.1	40.9	4.1	30.0	37.5	29.4	3.1	26.9	47.2	18.3	7.6
Manitoba	54.0	39.1	6.6	0.2	65.9	33.4	0.6	0.0	45.8	42.7	8.0	3.5
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta	9.1	16.4	34.7	39.8	11.9	16.4	17.5	54.2	27.7	46.2	15.0	11.1
British Columbia	37.1	23.3	36.3	3.3	37.9	34.9	12.3	14.5	36.1	24.8	33.0	6.1
Yukon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northwest Territories	41.0	53.8	2.6	2.6	40.0	58.0	0.0	2.0	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut.

2. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

3. Violent offences include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion.

4. Property offences include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief.

5. Other 'Criminal Code' offences include offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct.

6. Other offences include drug-related offences, YOA/YCJA and other federal offences, and provincial/municipal offences.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 4

Releases from probation, by time served, 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Total	Duration by time served				
		1 month or less	>1 to 6 months	>6 months to 1 year	>1 to 2 years	More than 2 years
	number	percentage				
Total¹	15,588	1.4	11.4	37.2	33.1	16.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	298	0.3	15.4	12.1	69.8	2.3
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Brunswick	444	0.0	7.4	12.2	60.8	19.6
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario	10,254	0.5	4.7	45.2	30.1	19.6
Manitoba	794	0.8	4.4	8.2	45.6	41.1
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta	1,788	1.1	28.5	25.3	39.4	5.7
British Columbia	2,010	7.1	33.5	28.0	26.0	5.4
Yukon	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northwest Territories	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 5

Average daily count of young persons in sentenced custody by jurisdiction, 2002/2003 to 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Sentenced custody					Secure custody					Open custody				
	Average count			Change of average count		Average count			Change of average count		Average count			Change of average count	
				2002/2003 to 2003/2004	2003/2004 to 2004/2005				2002/2003 to 2003/2004	2003/2004 to 2004/2005				2002/2003 to 2003/2004	2003/2004 to 2004/2005
	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005			2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005			2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005		
	number			percentage		number			percentage		number			percentage	
Total	2,719	1,552	1,299	-42.9	-16.3	1,258	820	697	-34.8	-15.1	1,460	732	602	-49.9	-17.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	93	45	44	-51.1	-2.8	42	28	18	-32.9	-35.8	51	17	26	-66.2	51.7
Prince Edward Island	14	6	3	-54.4	-50.7	7	3	2	-55.0	-53.4	6	3	1	-53.7	-65.4
Nova Scotia	105	57	38	-46.3	-32.2	21	12	6	-41.9	-46.0	85	45	32	-47.4	-28.5
New Brunswick	97	61	59	-36.7	-3.3	45	30	32	-32.6	5.0	52	31	28	-40.1	-11.3
Quebec	313	232	184	-26.0	-20.5	192	159	127	-17.6	-19.8	121	73	57	-39.5	-21.9
Ontario ¹	1,262	598	485	-52.6	-18.9	536	300	254	-44.1	-15.3	726	299	231	-58.9	-22.6
Manitoba	152	104	84	-31.6	-19.4	61	43	34	-30.0	-20.5	91	61	50	-32.6	-18.7
Saskatchewan	246	188	160	-23.7	-15.1	145	115	97	-21.2	-15.7	101	73	63	-27.4	-14.2
Alberta	229	142	126	-38.0	-11.0	123	82	77	-33.5	-5.5	106	60	49	-43.3	-18.6
British Columbia	152	90	87	-41.0	-3.0	68	37	38	-45.1	2.4	85	53	49	-37.7	-6.8
Yukon	5	3	4	-39.1	30.5	1	1	1	-18.5	-43.4	4	2	3	-45.2	63.1
Northwest Territories	41	22	17	-46.4	-23.6	13	10	8	-20.5	-19.2	28	12	9	-57.1	-27.8
Nunavut	10	5	8	-49.6	72.4	5	2	4	-57.1	100.0	5	3	4	-40.0	33.3

1. Includes estimates for 2002/2003 and for 2003/2004 for 12-to-15 year olds.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

Table 6

Average count of young persons on probation by jurisdiction, 2002/2003 to 2004/2005

Jurisdiction	Probation				
	Average count			Change in average count	
	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2002/2003 to 2003/2004	2003/2004 to 2004/2005
	number			percentage	
Total¹	16,784	13,478	11,339	-19.7	-15.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	802	672	627	-16.2	-6.7
Prince Edward Island	151	134	107	-11.3	-19.7
Nova Scotia ²	875	808	651	-7.6	-19.4
New Brunswick	875	654	545	-25.2	-16.8
Quebec	5,136	4,014	3,663	-21.8	-8.7
Ontario	7,806	14,411	9,711	...	-32.6
Manitoba	2,045	1,796	1,375	-12.2	-23.4
Saskatchewan	1,805	1,524	1,381	-15.5	-9.4
Alberta	2,619	2,108	1,727	-19.5	-18.1
British Columbia	2,444	1,740	1,247	-28.8	-28.3
Yukon	33	27	16	-18.1	-41.5
Northwest Territories	..	..	..	...	...
Nunavut	..	18	20	...	11.4

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Total excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for all years.

2. The reduction in probation between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 may be partially attributable to a change in data capture systems.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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A comparison of large urban, small urban and rural crime rates, 2005

by Joycelyn Francisco and Christian Chénier

Highlights

- Crime is not necessarily a large urban phenomenon. Looking at 2005 police-reported data, small urban areas were found to have higher overall crime rates than large urban areas. The lowest overall crime rates were found in rural areas.
- These findings applied to all the provinces and territories except for Quebec and Alberta. In Quebec, the overall crime rate was highest in the large urban areas; in Alberta, the overall crime rate was lowest in large urban areas.
- In addition to having the highest overall crime rate, small urban areas reported the highest rates for total violent crime, total property crime and breaking and entering. However, these areas reported the lowest homicide rates.
- Large urban areas reported the highest rates for both robbery and motor vehicle theft. In particular, robbery rates were more than double those of small urban areas and almost 10 times higher than rural areas. Overall violent crime rates, however, were lowest in large urban areas.
- Rural areas had the highest homicide rate in 2005 as has been the case over the past decade. However, rural areas reported the lowest rates for overall crime, total property crime, robbery and motor vehicle theft.
- The proportion of homicides committed with a firearm was actually slightly higher in rural areas (39%) than in large urban (35%) and small urban areas (23%). The type of firearm used to commit homicide differed widely between urban and rural areas. While a handgun was the weapon of choice in the large urban areas, a rifle/shotgun was most commonly used in rural areas.
- The presence of weapons in violent crime in large urban areas was much higher than in small urban and rural areas (data for Quebec and Ontario only). In fact, the presence of a firearm was about two to three times greater in a large urban area than in a small urban or rural area of these provinces.
- Despite differences in crime rates, residents of the large urban, small urban and rural areas were equally likely, at over 90%, to report feeling satisfied about their safety from crime. However, residents of small urban and rural areas were more likely than the residents of large urban areas to say that the police were doing a good job.



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Introduction

Canada's population continues to become more urban. The share of urban population in Canada increased from 76% in 1986 to 80% in 2006.¹ The census metropolitan areas (CMAs), the largest urban areas, comprised 61% of the total Canadian population in 1986 and 68% in 2006.²

Some researchers claim that urbanization brings significant socio-economic changes which in turn may lead to greater societal problems such as increased crime.³ Thus, there may be a general perception that crime rates are higher in large urbanized areas than in smaller areas and that the use of firearms in the commission of crimes is also higher in large urban areas.

For the first time, police detachments in Canada have been classified into large urban, small urban or rural according to their boundaries and resident population (see Text box 1 for definitions of these three groupings). Using these groupings, this report looks at overall police-reported crime rates in 2005 and four offence-specific rates: homicide, robbery, breaking and entering (B&E), and motor vehicle theft.

Victimization data from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) are also examined where appropriate. In particular, the study looks at perceptions of safety from crime among the urban and rural population and precautionary measures taken by residents.

Text box 1

Definition of large urban, small urban and rural areas

Large urban areas: are defined as census metropolitan areas (CMAs). A CMA represents one or more adjacent municipalities centered on an urban core of at least 100,000 population.¹ To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. As of 2005, there were 27 CMAs in Canada. All small urban and rural areas within CMA boundaries are included in the category of "large urban areas" for the purposes of this study.

Small urban areas: are defined as any urban area not part of a CMA that has a minimum population of 1,000 persons and a population density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre. This category also includes any rural areas that are part of a census agglomeration (CA) which has a similar definition and concept as a CMA, except that the urban core population can be as low as 10,000.

Rural areas: are defined as all areas of the country not falling into either large urban or small urban.

Note: Following the above definitions, most reserves are classified as rural, although some do fall in either small urban or large urban categories. A previous study² found that on-reserve crime rates were about three times higher than off-reserve crime rates. Rates of violent crime were seven times higher on reserves, while rates of property crime were about 40% higher.

1. This definition is based on the 2001 Census. For the 2006 Census, the minimum population of the urban core required for a CMA has been lowered to 50,000.
2. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. 2006. *Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada*, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 26, no. 3. Ottawa.

1. Statistics Canada, Censuses of Population, 1901 to 2006.
2. Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Analysis Series.
3. Feld, Barry C. (1991). "Justice by Geography: Urban, Suburban and Rural Variations in Juvenile Justice Administration." *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. Vol. 82, no.1.

Crime in large urban, small urban and rural communities

Overall crime

Overall police-reported crime rate highest in small urban areas

According to the 2005 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey data, about 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic violations and other federal statutes such as drug offences) were reported by police forces across the country (Table 1). Of these, approximately 1.5 million incidents were reported in large urban areas, 590,000 in small urban areas and 360,000 in rural areas. While large urban areas account for the highest proportion of reported annual incidents (62%), they also account for the highest share of Canada's population (66%).⁴

Crime is not necessarily a large urban phenomenon. After controlling for population, we see that overall crime rates in Canada in 2005 were highest in small urban areas and lowest in rural areas (Figure 1). The overall crime rate in the small urban areas was about 43% higher than in large urban areas and about 58% higher than in the rural areas. Small urban areas also reported the highest rates for total violent crime and total property crime.

These findings for police-reported incidents applied to all the provinces and territories except for Quebec and Alberta. In Quebec, the overall crime rate was highest in the large urban areas; in Alberta, the overall crime rate was lowest in large urban areas.

Small urban areas in Saskatchewan showed the highest overall crime rate among the provinces, followed closely by the small urban areas of Manitoba, British Columbia and Alberta. The overall crime rate was lowest in rural Quebec, followed by the rural areas in Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador and New Brunswick. These findings are consistent with overall provincial crime trends which show the highest rates of crime in the western provinces and the lowest rates in central Canada.

The GSS collects reporting rates to police for each of the eight offences included in the survey. For seven of these eight offences, there were no significant differences in reporting rates between small urban residents and large urban residents. The only offence with significantly different reporting rates was "theft of personal property", where small urban residents reported incidents to police much more frequently (40%) than did residents of large urban areas (28%). Therefore, reporting rates to police do not appear to explain the differences in police-reported crime rates between these areas.

Violent crime

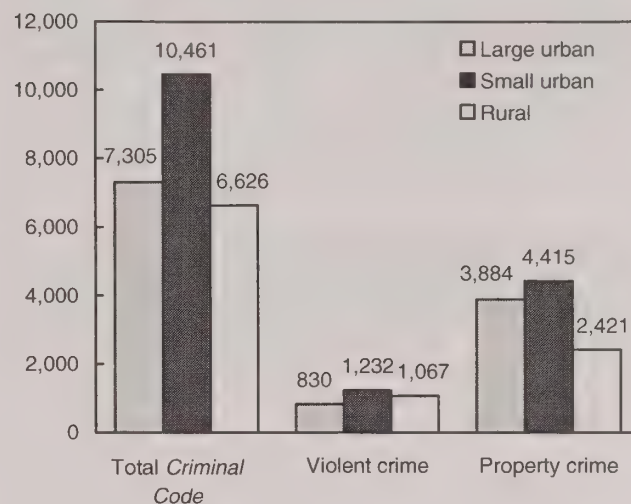
Violent crime rates lowest in large urban areas

Violent crimes are *Criminal Code* violations involving violence, the threat of violence or violations resulting in the deprivation of freedom. Examples of violent crimes include murder, assault, sexual assault and robbery. Similar to overall crime,

Figure 1

Highest overall crime rate found in small urban areas, 2005

number of incidents per 100,000 population



Note: "Other" *Criminal Code* offences are not shown in this graph.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Text box 2 Data sources

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The UCR survey collects detailed information on all criminal incidents reported to, or detected by, police services in Canada.

General Social Survey on Victimization (GSS)

The GSS provides self-reported victimization rates for only eight crimes: sexual assault, robbery, assault, theft of personal property, breaking and entering, motor vehicle/parts theft, theft of household property and vandalism.

As the UCR survey includes over 100 different offences, overall victimization rates cannot be compared with overall police-reported crime rates. However, three offences that are analyzed in this report are comparable between the GSS and the UCR. For two of these three (robbery and motor vehicle theft), GSS results were similar to the findings for the UCR data in that the highest rates were reported in large urban areas and lowest in rural areas.

However, for breaking and entering, the results from the two surveys were different. The 2004 GSS on victimization showed that B&E rates (residential only) were highest in large urban areas and lowest in rural areas (Table 5). This contrasts with the findings from police-reported data which showed that small urban areas had the highest rates of B&Es, even after adjusting to count only residential B&Es. Reporting rates to police for this offence do not explain why the GSS findings differ from the police-reported data.

4. This is based on the 2005 preliminary postcensal estimate for 2005.

violent crime rates were again highest in small urban areas. However, rural areas reported higher violent crime rates than large urban areas.

Although these same national level findings were seen in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, there was variation elsewhere. In New Brunswick and Quebec, total violent crime rates were highest in the large urban areas. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, rural areas reported the highest violent crime rates.

The highest violent crime rates among the provinces were found in rural Saskatchewan and Manitoba, while the lowest were found in rural Prince Edward Island.

Homicide rate highest in rural areas

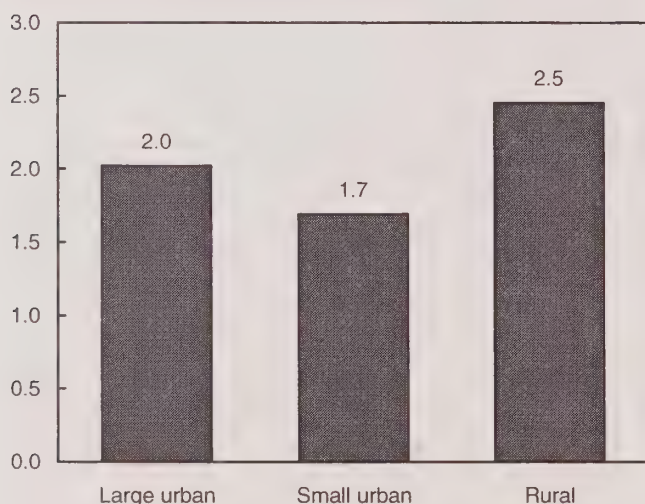
Homicide, the most serious of all criminal acts, includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide. There were 658 reported homicides in Canada in 2005, of which 427 were committed in large urban areas, 95 in small urban areas and 135 in rural areas (1 incident could not be classified as urban or rural).

Of the four specific offences under study, homicide was the only one where the highest rate was in rural Canada in 2005 (Figure 2, Table 2).⁵ In fact, the highest homicide rates in the country were found in the rural areas of the prairie provinces. However, homicide rates were not highest in the rural areas of all provinces. In Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, for example, homicide rates were highest in the large urban areas.

Figure 2

Homicide rates highest in rural areas, 2005

number of victims per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

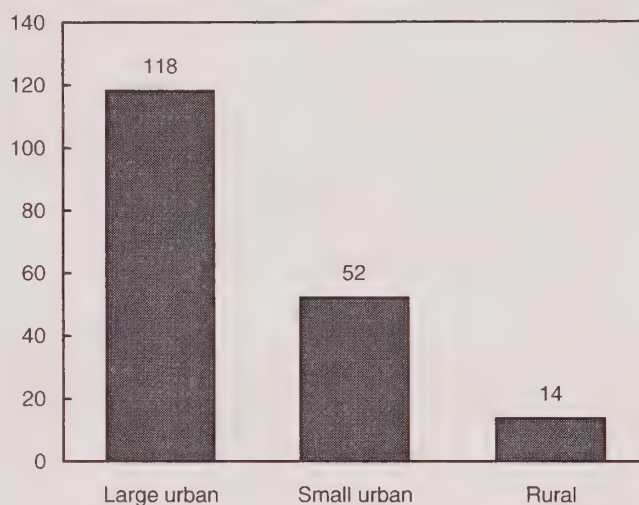
Robbery mostly a large urban criminal offence

Robbery, according to the 2005 crime statistics, was by far a large urban crime (Table 2). In fact, the robbery rate for large urban Canada is more than twice that for small urban areas and almost 10 times that for rural areas (Figure 3). This finding was consistent in most provinces.

Figure 3

Robbery rates much higher in large urban areas, 2005

number of incidents per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Characteristics of violent incidents

Data on the characteristics of homicides, including weapon use and victim-offender relationships, are available for the entire country. Such data describing other violent crimes are not available for rural areas outside Quebec and Ontario. As such, the analysis of weapons and victim-offender relationships in overall violent crime is done for Quebec and Ontario only.⁶

Type of firearm differs between urban and rural homicides

The proportion of homicides committed with a firearm in 2005 was slightly higher in rural areas (39%) than in large urban areas (35%) and much higher than in small urban areas (23%).

- Based on a preliminary of homicide rates for the past ten years, it appears that homicide rates have consistently been highest in the rural areas of the country.
- UCR2 survey coverage in Quebec for 2005 is 99% of the provincial caseload and 88% in Ontario.

The type of firearm used to commit homicide differed widely between urban and rural areas. While a handgun was the weapon of choice in the large urban areas (76% of all firearm homicides), a rifle/shotgun was the most commonly used firearm in rural areas (65%). Conversely, rifles/shotguns accounted for only 7% of large urban area firearm homicides, while handguns comprised about 15% of all rural area firearm homicides.

Weapons most commonly present in large urban crimes

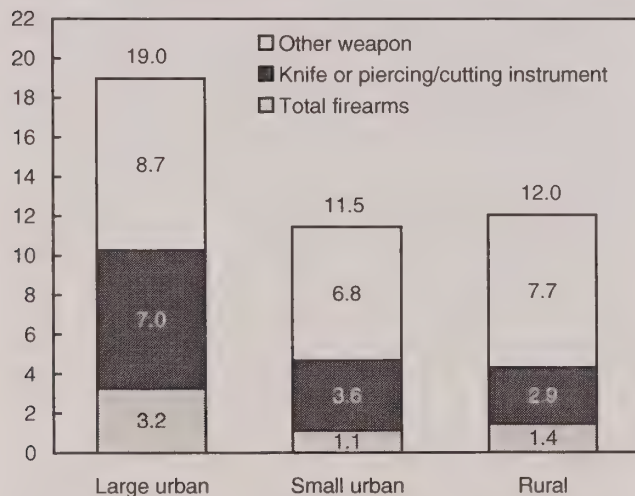
The presence of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime is relatively infrequent. About 17% of all violent incidents in Quebec and Ontario in 2005 involved a weapon of some sort, most commonly a knife.

The presence of weapons in violent crimes in large urban areas was more frequent than in small urban or rural areas (Table 3). About 1 in 5 reported violent crimes in large urban areas of Quebec and Ontario involved a weapon, compared to about 1 in 8 violent crimes in small urban and rural areas (Figure 4).

Figure 4

Firearms 2 to 3 times more likely to be present in large urban areas than in small urban and rural areas of Quebec and Ontario, 2005

percentage of total violent crime



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Further, the proportion of violent crimes involving a firearm was about two to three times higher in large urban areas (3.2% of all violent crimes) than in small urban (1.1%) or rural areas (1.4%). When a firearm was present, handguns were more prevalent in large urban areas than in other areas.

The presence of a knife or piercing/cutting instrument was also most common in large urban areas (7.0% of all violent crime incidents) and least common in small urban (3.6%) and rural areas (2.9%).

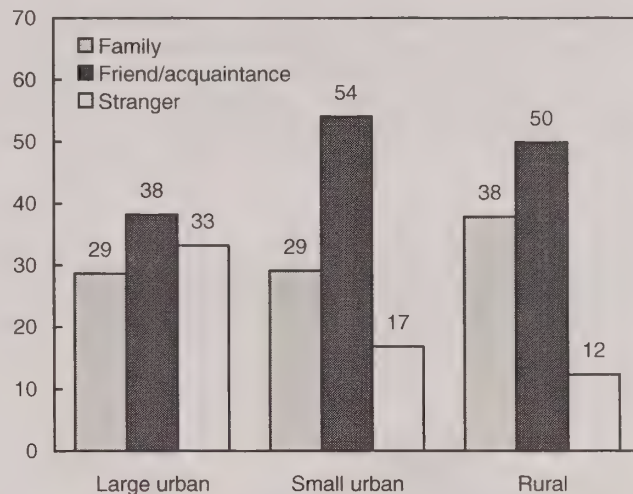
Likelihood that victim knew the accused highest in rural areas

Not surprisingly, the proportion of total violent crimes committed by strangers was highest in the large urban areas (33%) and lowest in the rural areas (12%) of Ontario and Quebec (Table 4, Figure 5). This finding held true for all violent offences.

Figure 5

One-third of all violent crimes in the large urban areas of Quebec and Ontario committed by strangers, 2005

percentage of violent crime victims



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

The proportion of violent crimes committed by family members was highest in the rural areas (38%) and lower (29%) in the large urban and small urban areas of Quebec and Ontario. This finding also held true for homicide incidents at the national level.

Property crime

Property crime rates highest in small urban areas

Property crimes are crimes committed with no force or threat of force against the victims. In 2005, there were about 1.2 million reported property crimes, of which approximately 800,000 were in large urban areas, 250,000 in small urban areas and 130,000 in rural areas.

Nationally, the overall property crime rate was highest in the small urban areas and lowest in the rural areas. The property crime rate in small urban Canada is about 82% higher than

that of rural Canada and about 14% higher than that of large urban Canada.

In all provinces, the property crime rate was highest in either the large urban or small urban areas. The overall property crime rate was highest in small urban British Columbia, followed closely by large urban Saskatchewan. It was lowest in the rural areas of Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Motor vehicle theft mainly a large urban crime

In 2005, there were about 160,000 incidents of motor vehicle theft reported to the police. Similar to robbery, motor vehicle theft in 2005 was mainly a large urban offence. In virtually all provinces, the motor vehicle theft rate was higher in the large urban areas than in the small urban or rural areas.

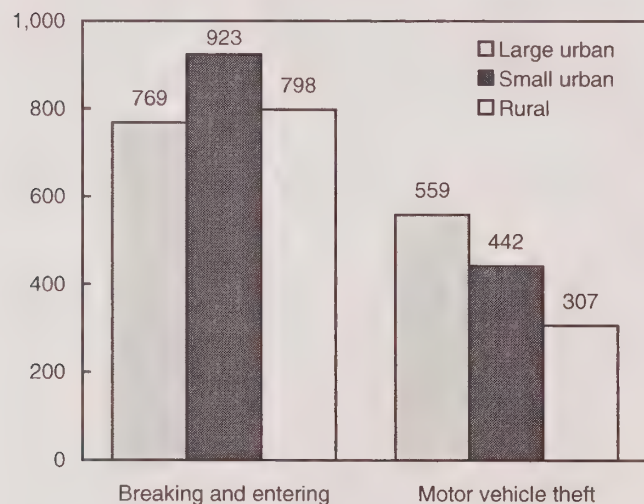
The rate of motor vehicle theft in large urban Canada was about 25% higher than in small urban areas and about 80% higher than in rural areas (Figure 6).

The highest police-reported rates in the country were found in the large urban areas of Manitoba, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Motor vehicle theft rates were lowest in rural and small urban Newfoundland and Labrador.

Figure 6

Motor vehicle theft a big city crime, 2005

number of incidents per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Urban and rural areas have fairly similar rates of breaking and entering

There were over 250,000 B&E incidents, including both residential and business, reported in 2005 (Table 2). Differences in the rates for the large urban, small urban and rural areas for B&E were smallest compared with the other offences considered in this study. The rate in small urban areas was 20% higher than in large urban areas and 16% higher than in rural areas (Figure 6).

While a number of provinces followed the national pattern of having the highest B&E rates in their small urban areas, B&E rates were highest in large urban areas of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.

The highest B&E rates were found in urban and rural areas of Saskatchewan and in small urban British Columbia. The lowest rates were seen in the large urban areas of Ontario and New Brunswick and in rural Prince Edward Island.

Text box 3

Urban/rural crime in the United States

In the United States, data from their UCR police-reported survey are broken down into similar, although not exactly comparable, urban/rural categories¹: Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), cities outside metropolitan areas and rural counties outside MSAs.

Similar to a CMA, an MSA includes a central city and other contiguous counties having strong economic and social ties with the central city. However, the central city of an MSA must have a population of at least 50,000. MSAs made up approximately 83% of the total U.S. population in 2005. Cities outside the MSAs are ordinarily incorporated areas, either as a city or town, and comprised about 7% of the American population. In contrast, rural counties outside MSAs are composed of mostly unincorporated areas and made up about 10% of the population.

While overall crime rates cannot be compared between the two countries, as the United States count only nine offences in their "Crime Index", and Canada's "crime rate" includes over 100 different offences, it is possible to get a general sense of urban and rural crime rates for the four specific offences included in this study. In general, the U.S. data are similar for three of the four offences. For robbery and motor vehicle theft, both countries have their highest rates in large urban areas and their lowest in rural areas. Similarly, for breaking and entering, both countries reported rates that were slightly higher in small urban areas.

The major difference between the two countries was for homicide. By far the highest rates in the U.S. were found in the large urban areas, while in Canada they were in the rural areas. This may be related to the prevalence of firearm homicides in large American cities. A recent study has shown that urban areas in the U.S. have experienced almost twice the firearm homicide rate of most rural counties.²

1. Crime in the United States, 2005. United States Department of Justice.
2. University of Pennsylvania Health System. September 27, 2004. Press Releases. "Big Cities and Small Towns Bear Similar Risks of Gun Death, says Penn Public Health Study," 1 p.

Perception of safety, attitudes towards police and precautionary measures taken

Residents of large urban, small urban and rural areas satisfied with their safety from crime

According to the 2004 GSS, more than 90% of all Canadians were satisfied with their overall safety from crime. Although rural areas generally have lower crime and victimization rates than urban areas, the residents in large urban, small urban and rural areas were almost equally likely to express their feeling of satisfaction about their safety from crime (Table 6). However, compared with the residents of large urban areas, a somewhat larger percentage of rural and small urban residents said they were "very satisfied" as opposed to just "somewhat satisfied". The highest rates of feeling "very satisfied" about safety from crime were found in rural and small urban Newfoundland and Labrador, while the most "dissatisfied" were found in the large urban areas of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

When it comes to their perception of the job being done by the police (based on five measures: being approachable, treating people fairly, ensuring neighborhood safety, enforcing the law, and promptly responding to calls), the majority of the residents of the large urban, small urban and rural areas all responded that the police were doing a good job. However, small urban and rural area residents were slightly more likely than the residents of large urban areas to say that the police were doing a good job in all five areas.

Large urban area residents took precautionary measures most often

The 2004 GSS asked respondents about their use of routine precautionary measures, namely: 1) lock car doors for safety when alone, 2) check back seat for intruders when returning to car alone, 3) plan route with safety in mind, 4) carry something to defend self or alert others, and 5) stay home at night because afraid to go out alone. Rural residents were least likely to have reported taking these measures, while the residents of the large urban areas were the most likely.

Respondents were also asked about lifetime protective measures such as changing routine, installing new locks or security bars, installing burglar alarms, taking self-defense courses, changing phone numbers, moving to a new residence, obtaining a gun or getting a dog. Large urban residents were more likely than either small urban or rural residents to change routine, install new locks and install burglar alarms, while rural residents were more likely to obtain a dog or get a gun.

Methodology

Data sources

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The UCR survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect crimes that have been substantiated

through police investigation. The overall "crime rate" includes all *Criminal Code* offences except traffic violations. It does not include other federal statutes such as drug offences.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim or incident characteristics. Coverage of the UCR Survey in 2005 was at 99.9% of the caseload of all police services in Canada. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police services switch over from the aggregate to the incident based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail.

Only UCR2 data from Quebec and Ontario are used for this study on crime in urban and rural areas as data from other provinces are primarily from only urban police services. The incidents contained in the 2005 database represent data from 39 police services in Quebec and 56 in Ontario. These police services represent 99% of the caseload in Quebec and 88% in Ontario.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. It provides more detailed information than the UCR2.

The General Social Survey (GSS)

Statistics Canada conducted the fourth victimization cycle of the General Social Survey in 2004. The objective of the survey is to collect information on the nature and extent of criminal victimization in Canada. Eight criminal offences are covered:

Violent crimes	1. sexual assault
	2. robbery
	3. assault
Personal crime (non-violent)	4. theft of personal property
Household crimes	5. break and enter
	6. motor vehicle/parts theft
	7. theft of household property
	8. vandalism

The 2004 GSS had a sample of 31,895 households of which 23,766 households responded for a response rate of about 75%. The data were collected by phone from January to December 2004 using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI).

While the methodology of this survey has been designed to control errors and to reduce the potential effects of these, the results remain subject to both sampling and non-sampling error. This *Juristat* uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of sampling error. Estimates with CVs of over 33.3%, denoted by 'F', are considered very unreliable and, hence, are not published. Those with CVs between 16.6 and 33.3, denoted by 'E', are published but should be used with caution.

Classification of police detachments into large urban, small urban and rural

As police service boundaries do not always correspond precisely to census boundaries, police detachments are classified into rural, small urban or large urban based on the proportion of their population policed falling into each of these areas. For example, a police detachment whose area of jurisdiction has at least a 50% rural population is classified as rural.

As a result, the overall distribution of police detachments into large urban, small urban and rural areas will not match precisely with census figures. The following table, based on the preliminary postcensal population estimates for 2005 (population as of July 1st), shows the comparison between the 2005 population distribution resulting from the census standard definitions and that from the UCR.

Text table 1

	Census (percentage of total population)	UCR (percentage of total population)
Large urban (CMAs)	64.3	65.5
Small urban	15.7	17.4
Rural	20.0	17.1

For this report, a number of police services could not be classified as large urban, small urban or rural and have been excluded in the data set. These include centralized units of the RCMP, OPP and Sûreté du Québec, as well as Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Police.

Under the UCR survey, a criminal incident is considered as being large urban, small urban or rural depending on how the police force to which it had been reported is classified.

The GSS classifies criminal victimization incidents as large urban, small urban or rural, according to the residence of the victim. Hence, a rural criminal victimization incident is classified as such because the victim is a resident in a rural area. Note that this incident may or may not have occurred in the rural area where the victim resides – the victim could have traveled to an urban area where the incident occurred.

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Table 1

Police reported crime incidents for broad categories of offences,¹ Canada, by province, 2005

Geography	Population	Total Criminal Code ²		Total violent crimes		Total property crimes	
		number	rate ³	number	rate ³	number	rate ³
Canada							
Large urban	21,134,653	1,543,869	7,304.9	175,495	830.4	820,848	3,883.9
Small urban	5,622,200	588,136	10,461.0	69,266	1,232.0	248,225	4,415.1
Rural	5,503,914	364,713	6,626.4	58,742	1,067.3	133,257	2,421.1
Newfoundland and Labrador							
Large urban	181,527	11,785	6,492.1	1,513	833.5	6,988	3,849.6
Small urban	118,509	9,123	7,698.1	1,305	1,101.2	2,779	2,345.0
Rural	215,926	10,502	4,863.7	1,663	770.2	3,310	1,532.9
Prince Edward Island							
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	57,776	6,657	11,522.1	571	988.3	3,183	5,509.2
Rural	80,337	4,206	5,235.4	469	583.8	1,527	1,900.7
Nova Scotia							
Large urban	380,844	35,741	9,384.7	4,972	1,305.5	18,595	4,882.6
Small urban	199,097	21,592	10,845.0	2,974	1,493.7	8,022	4,029.2
Rural	357,948	20,918	5,843.9	2,729	762.4	7,373	2,059.8
New Brunswick							
Large urban	145,363	9,758	6,712.8	1,543	1,061.5	3,892	2,677.4
Small urban	257,597	23,615	9,167.4	2,444	948.8	10,343	4,015.2
Rural	349,047	17,363	4,974.4	2,283	654.1	6,207	1,778.3
Quebec							
Large urban	5,121,768	337,928	6,597.9	39,211	765.6	176,532	3,446.7
Small urban	1,154,621	62,320	5,397.4	8,244	714.0	31,515	2,729.5
Rural	1,313,605	57,422	4,371.3	8,710	663.1	29,484	2,244.5
Ontario							
Large urban	9,418,183	533,545	5,665.1	66,752	708.8	264,908	2,812.7
Small urban	1,674,791	120,422	7,190.3	16,155	964.6	55,900	3,337.7
Rural	1,460,949	67,813	4,641.7	10,697	732.2	29,640	2,028.8
Manitoba							
Large urban	698,791	77,934	11,152.7	8,826	1,263.0	41,299	5,910.1
Small urban	172,110	27,232	15,822.4	3,178	1,846.5	8,455	4,912.6
Rural	307,099	32,156	10,470.9	6,634	2,160.2	8,769	2,855.4
Saskatchewan							
Large urban	446,261	58,984	13,217.4	7,001	1,568.8	29,726	6,661.1
Small urban	235,744	40,064	16,994.7	4,397	1,865.2	13,973	5,927.2
Rural	327,467	43,234	13,202.6	8,317	2,539.8	10,770	3,288.9
Alberta							
Large urban	2,086,470	181,730	8,709.9	18,033	864.3	108,158	5,183.8
Small urban	615,576	92,031	14,950.4	9,551	1,551.6	34,348	5,579.8
Rural	524,877	51,543	9,820.0	7,959	1,516.4	15,828	3,015.6
British Columbia							
Large urban	2,655,446	296,464	11,164.4	27,644	1,041.0	170,750	6,430.2
Small urban	1,074,767	164,864	15,339.5	17,714	1,648.2	75,847	7,057.1
Rural	524,309	45,328	8,645.3	6,108	1,165.0	17,900	3,414.0
Yukon							
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	24,373	4,660	19,119.5	547	2,244.3	1,431	5,871.3
Rural	6,615	2,231	33,726.4	405	6,122.4	426	6,439.9
Northwest Territories							
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	27,185	10,700	39,359.9	1,432	5,267.6	1,699	6,249.8
Rural	15,797	7,021	44,445.1	1,410	8,925.7	1,087	6,881.1
Nunavut							
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	10,054	4,856	48,299.2	754	7,499.5	730	7,260.8
Rural	19,938	4,976	24,957.4	1,358	6,811.1	936	4,694.6

... not applicable

1. "Other" Criminal Code offences are not shown in this table although they are included under "Total Criminal Code".

2. Figures do not include traffic incidents and other federal statutes such as drug offences.

3. Rates are per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005* report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Note: Data from respondent police forces which could not be classified as large urban, small urban or rural were excluded (ex. OPP headquarters, RCMP headquarters, police forces which do only traffic, etc.)

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2005.

Table 2

Police reported crime incidents for selected offences, Canada, by province, 2005

Geography	Homicide ¹		Robbery		Breaking and entering		Motor vehicle theft	
	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	number	rate ²
Canada								
Large urban	427	2.0	24,967	118.1	162,457	768.7	118,160	559.1
Small urban	95	1.7	2,932	52.2	51,907	923.3	24,849	442.0
Rural	135	2.5	756	13.7	43,917	797.9	16,873	306.6
Newfoundland and Labrador								
Large urban	2	1.1	112	61.7	1,973	1,086.9	484	266.6
Small urban	3	2.5	24	20.3	971	819.3	115	97.0
Rural	4	1.9	13	6.0	1,254	580.8	176	81.5
Prince Edward Island								
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	0	0.0	14	24.2	401	694.1	116	200.8
Rural	0	0.0	3	3.7	430	535.2	111	138.2
Nova Scotia								
Large urban	10	2.6	591	155.2	3,488	915.9	1,631	428.3
Small urban	5	2.5	86	43.2	1,603	805.1	495	248.6
Rural	5	1.4	30	8.4	2,199	614.3	505	141.1
New Brunswick								
Large urban	0	0.0	64	44.0	759	522.1	199	136.9
Small urban	4	1.6	153	59.4	2,175	844.3	587	227.9
Rural	5	1.4	29	8.3	1,922	550.6	653	187.1
Quebec								
Large urban	57	1.1	6,215	121.3	44,009	859.3	28,179	550.2
Small urban	17	1.5	345	29.9	9,558	827.8	5,308	459.7
Rural	26	2.0	194	14.8	11,341	863.3	5,054	384.7
Ontario								
Large urban	177	1.9	8,994	95.5	48,500	515.0	32,013	339.9
Small urban	19	1.1	762	45.5	10,765	642.8	4,572	273.0
Rural	22	1.5	159	10.9	8,599	588.6	2,775	189.9
Manitoba								
Large urban	26	3.7	1,841	263.5	7,475	1,069.7	11,960	1,711.5
Small urban	6	3.5	97	56.4	2,015	1,170.8	781	453.8
Rural	17	5.5	68	22.1	3,604	1,173.6	1,444	470.2
Saskatchewan								
Large urban	17	3.8	1,003	224.8	7,161	1,604.7	3,517	788.1
Small urban	7	3.0	160	67.9	3,181	1,349.3	1,127	478.1
Rural	19	5.8	80	24.4	4,244	1,296.0	1,530	467.2
Alberta								
Large urban	70	3.4	2,550	122.2	18,691	895.8	15,478	741.8
Small urban	15	2.4	335	54.4	5,807	943.3	3,331	541.1
Rural	23	4.4	85	16.2	4,439	845.7	2,391	455.5
British Columbia								
Large urban	68	2.6	3,597	135.5	30,401	1,144.9	24,699	930.1
Small urban	18	1.7	924	86.0	14,305	1,331.0	8,026	746.8
Rural	12	2.3	90	17.2	4,681	892.8	2,039	388.9
Yukon								
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	1	4.1	15	61.5	316	1,296.5	115	471.8
Rural	0	0.0	1	15.1	180	2,721.1	32	483.7
Northwest Territories								
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	0	0.0	11	40.5	486	1,787.8	167	614.3
Rural	0	0.0	4	25.3	495	3,133.5	108	683.7
Nunavut								
Large urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small urban	0	0.0	6	59.7	324	3,222.6	109	1,084.1
Rural	2	10.0	0	0.0	529	2,653.2	55	275.9

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. There were actually 658 homicides in Canada in 2005. However, one homicide could not be classified as urban or rural.

2. Rates are per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the *Annual Demographic Statistics, 2005* report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Note: Data from respondent police forces which were not classified as large urban, small urban or rural were excluded (ex. OPP headquarters, RCMP headquarters, police forces which do only traffic, etc.).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2005.

Table 3

Police-reported data on most serious weapons present in crimes against the person, 2005

	Large urban		Small urban		Rural	
	Incidents		Incidents		Incidents	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total crimes against the person (Quebec and Ontario) ^{1,2}	101,976	100.0	27,486	100.0	19,778	100.0
Total weapons	19,345	19.0	3,148	11.5	2,383	12.0
Total firearms	3,312	3.2	305	1.1	286	1.4
Handgun	2,513	2.5	136	0.5	98	0.5
Rifle/shotgun	220	0.2	48	0.2	91	0.5
Sawed-off rifle/shotgun	143	0.1	19	0.1	12	0.1
Fully automatic firearm	102	0.1	11	0.0	12	0.1
Other firearm	334	0.3	91	0.3	73	0.4
Knife or piercing/cutting instrument	7,170	7.0	978	3.6	566	2.9
Other weapon	8,863	8.7	1,865	6.8	1,531	7.7
Physical force	63,723	62.5	17,385	63.3	13,299	67.2
No weapon	18,908	18.5	6,953	25.3	4,096	20.7
Homicide (Canada)	427	100.0	95	100.0	135	100.0
Total weapons	342	80.1	67	70.5	102	75.6
Total firearms	148	34.7	22	23.2	52	38.5
Handgun	113	26.5	7	7.4	8	5.9
Rifle/shotgun	10	2.3	11	11.6	34	25.2
Sawed-off rifle/shotgun	7	1.6	2	2.1	2	1.5
Fully automatic firearm	6	1.4	1	1.1	0	0.0
Other firearm	12	2.8	1	1.1	8	5.9
Knife or piercing/cutting instrument	138	32.3	24	25.3	35	25.9
Other weapon	56	13.1	21	22.1	15	11.1
Physical force	69	16.2	19	20.0	24	17.8
Exposure to elements	1	0.2	1	1.1	1	0.7
Unknown	15	3.5	8	8.4	8	5.9

1. Rural data for the UCR2 survey were only available for Quebec and Ontario. Coverage in these two provinces in 2005 was 99% of the provincial caseload in Quebec and 88% in Ontario.

2. Incidents where weapon type is unknown have been excluded from this table.

Note: Percentages may not add to total shown because of rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, 2005 and Homicide Survey, 2005.

Table 4

Police-reported data on solved violent crimes and homicides by victim-accused relationship, 2005

Relationship type	Large urban		Small urban		Rural	
	Victims		Victims		Victims	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total violent crime (Quebec and Ontario) ^{1,2}	110,108	100.0	25,591	100.0	18,047	100.0
Family	31,531	28.6	7,447	29.1	6,833	37.9
Spousal	19,992	18.2	4,150	16.2	3,604	20.0
Non-spousal	11,539	10.5	3,297	12.9	3,229	17.9
Friend/acquaintance	42,031	38.2	13,833	54.1	8,997	49.9
Stranger	36,546	33.2	4,311	16.8	2,217	12.3
Homicides (Canada)	290	100.0	73	100.0	114	100.0
Family	85	29.3	24	32.9	46	40.4
Spousal	40	13.8	13	17.8	21	18.4
Non-spousal	45	15.5	11	15.1	25	21.9
Friend/acquaintance	138	47.6	38	52.1	57	50.0
Stranger	67	23.1	9	12.3	10	8.8
Unknown relationship	0	0.0	2	2.7	1	0.9

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Rural data for the UCR2 survey were only available for Quebec and Ontario. Coverage in these two provinces in 2005 was 99% of the provincial caseload in Quebec and 88% in Ontario.

2. Incidents where relationship type is unknown have been excluded from this table.

Note: Percentages may not add to total shown because of rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, 2005 and Homicide Survey, 2005.

Table 5

Self-reported victimization rates by offence, 2004

Offences	Total Canada		Large urban		Small urban		Rural	
	Incidents		Incidents		Incidents		Incidents	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Violent crimes ^{1,2}	2,751,348	106	1,847,604	117	459,092	94	444,653	84
Sexual assault ²	546,453	21	393,861	25	74,909	15	77,683	15
Robbery ²	273,748	11	205,297	13	36,809 ^E	8 ^E	31,642 ^E	6 ^E
Assault ³	1,931,147	75	1,248,446	79	347,373	71	335,328	64
Theft of personal property ^{1,4}	2,408,418	93	1,627,401	103	439,644	90	341,372	65
Household crimes ⁵	3,205,696	248	2,169,257	278	616,399	241	420,040	164
Break and enter ⁴	505,360	39	340,086	44	93,580	37	71,695	28
Motor vehicle/parts theft ²	571,292	44	412,751	53	84,361	33	74,180	29
Theft of household property ⁴	1,135,954	88	745,983	96	247,657	97	142,314	56
Vandalism ⁴	993,090	77	670,438	86	190,800	75	131,852	51

^E use with caution

1. Rates for violent crimes and theft of personal property are per thousand population.

2. The difference between small urban and rural is not significant.

3. The differences between large urban and small urban and between small urban and rural are not significant.

4. The difference between large urban and small urban is not significant.

5. Rates for household crimes are per thousand households.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

Table 6

Self-reported victimization data on the feeling of general satisfaction about safety from crime, 2004

Geography	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Dissatisfied
percentage of population 15 and over			
Canada			
Large urban	40	53	6
Small urban	49	45	4
Rural	52	44	3
Newfoundland and Labrador			
Large urban	64	34	F
Small urban	75	23	F
Rural	72	27	F
Prince Edward Island			
Large urban	...	...	...
Small urban	66	33	F
Rural	69	28	F
Nova Scotia			
Large urban	45	47	8
Small urban	65	32	F
Rural	61	35	3
New Brunswick			
Large urban	56	38	5
Small urban	61	38	F
Rural	64	33	3
Quebec			
Large urban	27	66	6
Small urban	27	66	6
Rural	28	67	5
Ontario			
Large urban	45	48	6
Small urban	56	41	2
Rural	58	38	3
Manitoba			
Large urban	39	52	7
Small urban	52	42	6
Rural	58	39	3
Saskatchewan			
Large urban	41	52	7
Small urban	49	46	F
Rural	62	34	4
Alberta			
Large urban	45	49	5
Small urban	50	45	4
Rural	57	38	3
British Columbia			
Large urban	39	52	8
Small urban	54	40	6
Rural	58	38	4

... not applicable

F too unreliable to be published

Note: Category of "no opinion" not shown.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004.

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Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 27, no. 4

Canada's shelters for abused women, 2005/2006

by Andrea Taylor-Butts

Highlights

- According to the 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey, admissions of women and children to Canada's shelters for abused women totalled about 106,000 from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. Since 1998, annual shelter admissions for women have been relatively stable, declining by 3%.
- A growing proportion of emergency-type shelters, offering mainly short-term stays and crisis intervention, are serving abused women. From 1998 to 2006 the number of emergency-type facilities serving abused women more than doubled. However, transition homes continue to be the most common type of facility sheltering abused women in Canada.
- On April 19, 2006, more than 2,900 women, representing 74% of women residents, were in shelters to escape an abusive situation. The remaining women stayed in shelters for reasons other than abuse, including housing problems, mental health issues and addictions.
- About four in ten women residing in shelters across Canada on April 19, 2006 had stayed in the facility on at least one other occasion.
- Annual operating costs for shelters totalled approximately \$317 million in 2005/2006.
- One in five shelters referred individuals elsewhere on April 19, 2006. In total, 306 women and 203 children could not be accommodated in a shelter on that day, most often because the facility was full.
- Compared to residents in off-reserve shelters, larger proportions of women in shelters on reserves were repeat clients, unaccompanied by their children, and fleeing the abuse of a former spouse.
- Women staying in rural shelters had access to fewer services and were less likely to bring their children with them compared to those in urban facilities.



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Introduction

About 7% of women and 6% of men across the country are the victims of violence at the hands of a current or former spouse or common-law partner, according to results from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization. Specifically, the 2004 GSS indicated that some 546,000 women and 653,000 men in Canada were the victims of spousal violence in the five years preceding the survey. While spousal violence victimization rates are similar for women and men, the nature and consequences of spousal violence differ by sex. Women tend to experience more harsh forms of violence (e.g., beaten, choked, sexually assaulted), and repeated incidents of violence compared to male victims (Mihorean 2005; Pottie Bunge and Locke 2000). Additionally, women were twice as likely as men to be injured as a result of spousal violence (44% versus 19%); six times more likely to seek medical attention (13% versus 2%); twice as likely to suffer negative psychological consequences such as depression or anxiety attacks (21% versus 9%) and were three times more likely to fear for their lives (34% versus 10%) (Mihorean, 2005).

Differences in the type and impact of spousal violence experienced by men and women may contribute to differences men and women display in seeking help. Female spousal violence victims are more likely than male victims to turn to informal sources of support (83% versus 60%) and are more likely than male victims to seek assistance from a social service (47% and 20%, respectively) (Mihorean, 2005). While informal forms of support such as family, friends and neighbours are the most common types of help sought by both male and female victims, one in ten female victims of spousal violence indicate that they used a shelter or transition home (Mihorean, 2005).

Shelters for abused women form an integral part of a larger network of services for those victimized by crime; they represent the residential complement to other programs and services for victims of abuse. According to the 2002/2003 Victim Services Survey (VSS), there were about 600 victim services agencies across Canada providing non-residential services to victims of crime; two-thirds of these agencies were mandated to serve adult victims of spousal abuse (Kong, 2004). These services offer domestic violence victims a variety of resources such as information, emotional support, liaison services and court accompaniment. The VSS found that spousal violence victims constitute about one-third (or 2,500) of all victims served by these agencies and programs and the vast majority (94%) of those served are female (Kong, 2004).

In 2006 there were 553 shelters providing residential services to women and children fleeing abusive situations in Canada, according to the 2005/2006 Transition Home Survey (THS) – a biennial census of all residential facilities for female victims of domestic violence (Table 1). Admissions of women and children to these shelters reached just over 105,700 in the 12-month period beginning April 1, 2005 and the cost of operating these facilities totalled approximately \$317 million.¹ And while not all residents of these shelters were fleeing domestic abuse, a majority were.

The shifting face of facilities sheltering abused women in Canada^{2,3}

Shelters vary in the types of residential services that they provide. If shelter service delivery models can be seen as existing on a continuum, at one end are the facilities that provide short-term, crisis intervention with limited services beyond room and board. At the other end of the service delivery continuum are facilities that provide long-term refuge and an extensive array of specialized services for abused women and their children (see Text box 1). The THS includes shelters covering the entire service delivery continuum, with the majority falling somewhere in the middle.

Between 1998 and 2006, the number of shelters in Canada grew from 470 to 553, with substantial rises in the number of women's emergency centres and emergency shelters⁴ accounting for much of this growth. In 1998, there were 53 emergency-type⁵ facilities, by 2006 their numbers more than doubled to 147. In contrast, the number of transition homes in Canada declined from 296 to 249 facilities between

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July 25, 2007

Title:

Juristat: Canada's Shelters for Abused Women, 2005/2006 (Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, vol. 27, no. 4)

Page 2, 4th line under **Introduction**:

Is: the 2004 GSS indicated that some 546,000 women and 653,000 men in Canada

Should be: the 2004 GSS indicated that some 653,000 women and 546,000 men in Canada

Text box 1

Types of residential facilities for abused women and children on the THS

The term 'shelter' is used broadly to refer to all residential facilities for abused women and their dependent children. In addition, for the purposes of the THS, the following generic categories were developed to further define the various types of shelters. Referring to these definitions, those responding to the THS selected the facility-type that **best described** their shelter.

Second stage housing: Facility offering long-term (3 to 12 months), secure housing with support and referral services designed to assist women while they search for permanent housing.

Transition home/shelter: Facility offering short or moderate term (1 day to 11 weeks) secure housing for abused women with or without children; also referred to as first stage emergency housing.

Family resource centre: Residential services provided through an Ontario government initiative that serves a wide range of clients and provides an extensive array of information and referrals.

Women's emergency centre/shelter: Facility offering short-term (1 to 21 days), respite for women and their dependent children.

Emergency shelter: Facility offering short-term (1 to 3 days), respite for a wide population range, not exclusively abused women. Some facilities may provide accommodation for men as well as women. This type of facility may accommodate residents who are not associated with family abuse but are without a home due to an emergency situation (e.g., eviction for non-payment of rent). Other than room and board services, these shelters offer few additional client services.

Safe home network: A network of private homes in rural or remote areas where there is no full-fledged operating shelter. It offers subsidiary very short term (1 to 3 days), emergency housing.

Other: Includes all other residential facilities offering services to abused women with or without children, not otherwise classified. This category includes Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCAs. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

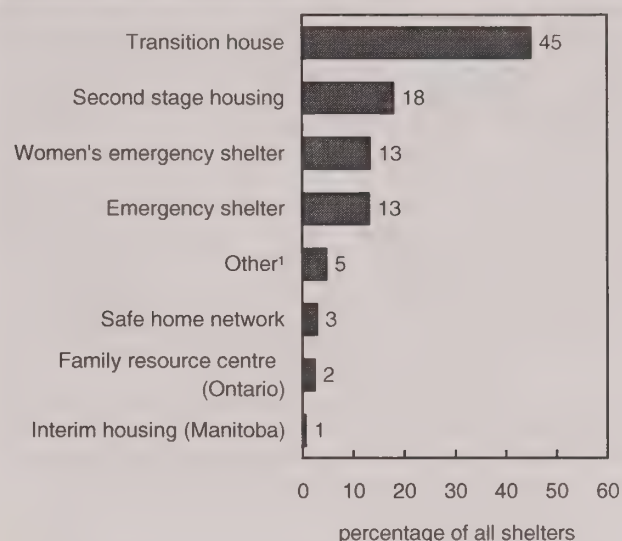
1998 and 2006. While transition homes continue to be the most common type of facility sheltering abused women and their children (Figure 1), their representation among all facility-types has declined since trend data for the THS were first collected in 1998, constituting 63% of shelters in 1998 versus 45% in 2006. At the same time, with the increases in emergency-type facilities, their representation has grown (up from 11% in 1998 to 26% in 2006).

Four in ten annual admissions were to emergency-type facilities

Among the 105,700 women and children admitted to shelters between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, 47% were admitted to transition homes, and taken together, admissions for women's emergency centres (24%) and emergency shelters (18%) represented 42% of all annual admissions.⁶ Coinciding with the shift in the relative number of transition homes and emergency-type facilities, the proportion of annual admissions to emergency-type facilities has grown while declining for transition homes. The proportion of annual admissions to transition homes declined from 51% of admissions reported on the last survey in 2004 to 47% in 2006, whereas for women's emergency centres, it was up from 14% in 2004 to 24% in 2006.

Figure 1

Transition homes and emergency-type facilities are the most common types of shelters available for abused women



1. 'Other' includes all other facilities not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Annual admissions for women stable

Since the previous survey in 2004, total annual admissions to shelters remained fairly steady, up 2% in 2006. However, following declines in admissions in 2000 and again in 2004, total admissions for 2006 were down 10% from 1998.⁷ A variety of factors may influence trends in admissions. For example, factors such as changes in the number of facilities across Canada and the average length of stay may have an impact on the number of admissions shelters have in a year.

Over the last several years, admissions of women were relatively stable, dipping 3% between 1998 and 2006. However, annual admission figures for children have shown more fluctuation, declining notably in 2000 and 2004. In 2006, admissions for children were down 4% over 2004 figures, but were 25% below 1998 counts. Moreover, children as a proportion of all admissions have declined almost steadily over the last five cycles of the THS, representing 49% of admissions in 1998 and 41% in 2006.

Overall declines in the representation of children in the Canadian population⁸ coupled with the greater number of women using emergency-type facilities that provide fewer services targeted toward children, may provide some insight into the decline of child admissions.

A profile of shelter residents on April 19, 2006

On April 19, 2006, the survey snapshot day, close to 7,500 women and their children were residing in shelters across Canada. Similar to the 2004 THS, just over half the residents were women (53%) and just under half were children (47%). Of the more than 3,900 women in shelters on snapshot day, about three-quarters (74%) were fleeing abuse; approximately 29 per 100,000 women in Canada were residing in shelters to escape abuse.⁹

Domestic abuse can assume many forms, with many women experiencing more than one type of abuse. Psychological and emotional abuse (66%), as well as physical abuse (55%) were the most common types of abuse cited among shelter residents.¹⁰ In addition, 41% of women in shelters were escaping threats, 37% financial abuse, 28% harassment, 23% sexual abuse and 10% sought shelter for some other type of abuse. The profile of the kinds of abuse suffered by shelter residents has remained largely unchanged over the last few cycles of the survey. Women also stayed in shelters for reasons other than abuse, including housing problems, mental health issues and addictions.

Data from the THS indicate that among the women using shelters, those escaping abuse were more inclined to select facilities that offer services and programs specifically designed

for abused women, rather than choose facilities where such programming is limited. According to the THS, abused women staying in shelters were most likely to use transition homes (42%) and second stage houses (24%) (Figure 2). In comparison, women residing in shelters for reasons not related to abuse, were more likely to turn to emergency shelters (33%) followed by transition homes (25%).

Children often in shelters to protect them from witnessing and experiencing abuse

Often, children are witnesses to spousal violence, particularly when the victim is female. According to the 2004 General Social Survey, 40% of female victims of spousal violence (versus 25% of male victims) indicated that children had seen or heard the violence (Beattie, 2005). Thus, in addition to protecting themselves from abuse, women can turn to shelters in order to keep their children safe. Despite a general decline in annual admissions of children, a sizeable majority of women residing in shelters on snapshot day had parenting responsibilities¹¹ (68%) and most of these women (76%) brought their children with them to the shelters. The children brought to shelters were typically young. More than two-thirds were under the age of 10, and four in ten children staying in shelters were under five years of age. On April 19, 2006, among the women with parenting responsibilities staying in shelters, about half (52%) were there to prevent their children from seeing their own mother being abused.

In addition to protecting them from witnessing violence, women also stayed in shelters to protect their children from being the victims of abuse. Four out of ten (41%) mothers in shelters were protecting their children from being psychologically abused, 26% were there to protect their children from physical abuse, 19% were protecting children from threats, 16% from neglect, and 5% from sexual abuse.

The THS shows that children were more likely to accompany their mothers to facilities offering long-term stays than to those providing stays of shorter duration. About 9 out of 10 mothers residing in second stage housing were there with their children compared to 76% in emergency shelters, 72% in women's emergency centres and 71% in transition homes.

About 4 in 10 residents stayed in the shelter on at least one prior occasion

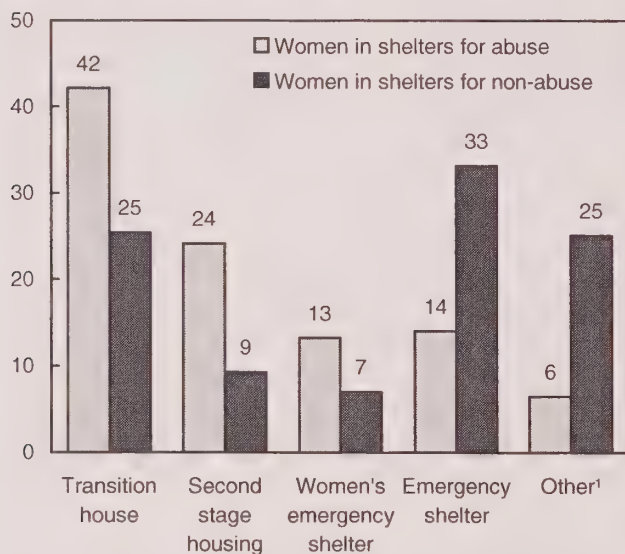
Research has shown that victims of spousal violence often suffer repeat victimizations. For example, the 2004 GSS found that more than half (54%) of individuals experiencing spousal violence in a current or previous relationship, reported suffering more than one incidence of violence (Mihorean 2005). Thus, with repeat victimizations relatively common among those experiencing spousal violence, it follows that a number of shelter residents will likely have used the facilities on one or more previous occasions.

The 2006 THS found that almost 4 in 10 women residing in shelters on the survey snapshot day in 2006 had stayed in that shelter before.¹² This proportion was up somewhat from the proportion of re-admissions in 2004 (31%). Among the women with previous shelter residencies, the largest proportion had

Figure 2

Almost half of women fleeing abuse and a quarter of women in shelters for other reasons used a transition home

percentage of women residents (April 19, 2006)



1. 'Other' includes safe home networks, Ontario Family Resource Centres, and Manitoba Interim Housing as well as any other facilities not otherwise classified and represent 9% of all facilities.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

been to the facility on one prior occasion in the last year (39%), about one-fifth (21%) had 2 to 4 previous stays and 14% of women returning to shelters had resided in that facility 5 or more times in the past year (Table 4).

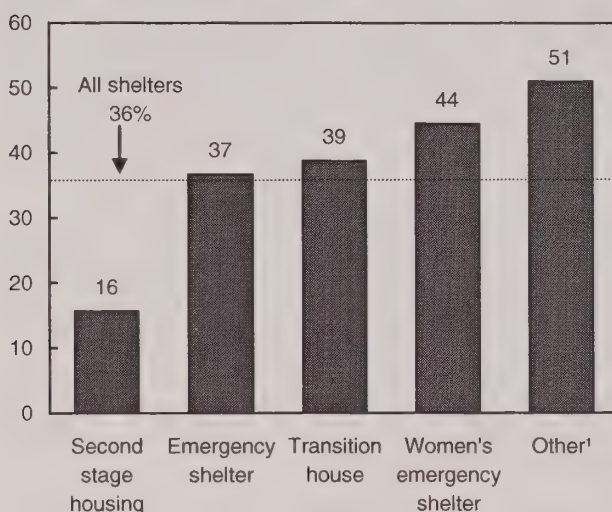
Among women with multiple shelter visits, the length of time between stays was typically less than a year. According to the 2006 THS, three-quarters of re-admissions to shelters occurred within the last year. For another 22% of women who had previously used shelters, it had been more than one year since their last stay.

Among the most frequently used facility-types, emergency centres (44%), transition homes (39%), and emergency shelters (37%), the proportion of residents who were repeat clients was about equal (Figure 3). However, re-admissions were notably less common among second stage housing residents (16%).

Figure 3

Repeat admissions far less common in second stage housing

percentage of residents with re-admissions



1. 'Other' includes safe home networks, Ontario Family Resource Centres, and Manitoba Interim Housing as well as any other facilities not otherwise classified and represent 9% of all facilities.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Abused women in shelters most likely 25 to 34 years old and in a marital or common-law union

Age is one of the strongest risk factors linked to spousal violence. Young people under the age of 25 reported the highest rates of spousal violence among all age categories, while those 45 years and older were least likely to be victimized, according to the 2004 GSS (Mihorean, 2005). Despite these findings,

women under 25 constituted a relatively small component of shelters' residents, even when their representation in the overall population is taken into consideration (Table 5). Women in shelters tended to fall between the ages of 25 and 34 (33%) and 35 and 44 years of age (25%).

The majority of abused women in shelters were there to escape an abusive spouse or common-law partner. About two-thirds of abused women in shelters on survey snapshot day were fleeing the abuse of a current spouse or partner and 13% were there because of the abuse of a former spouse or partner. (Table 6). However, a higher proportion of residents were seeking shelter from a current or former common-law partner (48%) versus a current or former spouse (31%). Common-law relationships are associated with an elevated risk of spousal violence. For example, individuals living in a common-law relationship were three times more likely to have experienced spousal violence in the past year compared to those in marital unions, according to the 2004 GSS (Mihorean, 2005).

While the majority of women in shelters on the THS snapshot day were fleeing an abusive martial or common-law union, still others were there to escape the abuse of someone they were currently or formerly dating (6%), a relative (5%), a friend or acquaintance (2%), or some other individual such as a caregiver or authority figure (1%). For 6% of residents, the relationship to their abuser was unknown.

Text box 2

Admissions of adult men

According to the GSS, the rates of spousal violence for men (6%) and women (7%) are similar, highlighting that men too are victims of this type of abuse. However as the GSS on Victimization also indicates, the nature and consequences of spousal violence tend to be more severe for women compared to men.

The THS asks shelters to indicate whether or not they permit adult males to be admitted to their facility.¹ About 9 out of 10 shelters prohibit the admission of men, while approximately 8% have policies that permit men to be admitted. Of those facilities allowing adult male residents, emergency shelters constituted the largest number (31%), followed by second stage facilities (24%). Just 10% of facilities that permitted men to be admitted were transition homes and another tenth were women's emergency centres.

Findings from the THS show that in 2006², about 2,300 men were admitted to facilities that also provide residential services to abused women. However, a small fraction of these annual admissions were related to spousal violence. About 6% (137 men) of the adult males admitted to shelters surveyed on the THS were also admitted for reasons of abuse and 3% (64 men) were seeking refuge due specifically to spousal abuse.

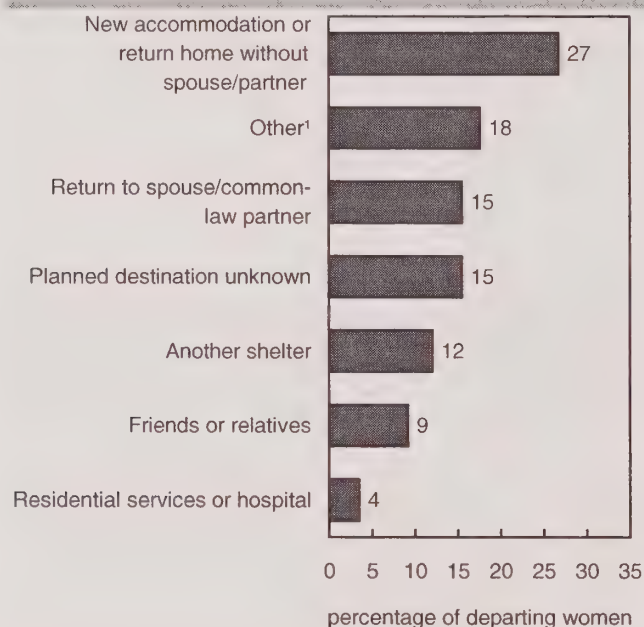
1. Facilities that exclusively serve male victims of spousal violence fall outside the scope of the THS. At the time of this survey, only one such facility was known to be in operation.
2. Because few men are admitted to the shelters surveyed through the THS, only information on annual admissions is collected. There are no snapshot data for adult males.

Most women leaving shelters do not plan to return to their abusive partners

On April 19, 2006, 142 women and 86 children departed from 64 shelters. Overall, about one in ten facilities (12%) reported departures. Most women (69%) leaving the shelter on survey snapshot day reported that they did not intend to return to their spouse or partner (Figure 4). Depending on the type of facility from which they were departing, there were some variations in women's intended destinations. For instance, women's emergency centres had the largest proportion of women (38%) who planned to return to their spouse or partner while transition homes (31%) had the greatest proportion of departing women with the intention of finding a new place to live or returning home without their spouse or partner.¹³

Figure 4

Seven out of ten women leaving shelters on April 19, 2006 did not plan to return to their spouse or partner



1. 'Other' includes all other destination not otherwise classified.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

One in five shelters turned away women and children on survey snapshot day

Shelters cannot always accommodate all those seeking refuge. On the 2006 THS snapshot day, 306 women and 203 children were turned away from shelters. About one shelter in five had to refer individuals elsewhere. The proportion of women's emergency centres (26%) and emergency shelters (29%) referring people elsewhere on April 19, 2006 was slightly higher than the proportion of transition homes (21%) and second stage houses (16%). The most frequent reason for turning away women and children on the THS snapshot day was because the facility was full.

Close-up: shelters on reserves

The Aboriginal population is disproportionately affected by spousal violence, which in turn, has had a significant impact on the families and culture of this population (Ipsos Reid, 2006; Lane Jr., Bopp and Bopp, 2003; Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996). Research indicates that Aboriginal Canadians, particularly Aboriginal women, are at much greater risk of experiencing spousal violence than their non-Aboriginal counterparts (Brzozowski, Taylor-Butts and Johnson, 2006; Lane Jr. et al., 2003; Trainor and Mihorean, 2001; and Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2001). Results of the 2004 GSS indicate that in the five years preceding the survey, Aboriginal people were about three times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be the victims of spousal violence (Brzozowski et al., 2006).

In 2006, about three out of ten shelters (28%) served a reserve population, about two-thirds (63%) of all facilities provided culturally sensitive programming to Aboriginal women and about half (46%) did so for Aboriginal children. In addition, some shelters offered services in Aboriginal languages such as Cree (12%), Ojibway (7%) and Inuktitut (3%).

Fewer shelters are located on reserves.¹⁴ According to the THS, 30 or 5% of Canada's shelters for abused women were located on reserves (Table 7). The majority of on-reserve shelters were in Ontario (40%), British Columbia (20%) and Alberta (13%), which are also home to the largest number of Canada's Aboriginal women (O'Donnell, 2006). Representing 4% of all annual admissions to Canadian shelters, these facilities provided refuge to some 4,600 women (2,100) and children (2,500) in the 12 months beginning April 1, 2005.

Compared to off-reserve facilities, shelters located on reserves were more likely to be emergency-type facilities. In fact, the proportion of shelters that are women's emergency centres (23%) and emergency shelters (27%) on reserves was about double that of off-reserve facilities (13% and 12% for each facility-type, respectively). Moreover, the proportion of on-reserve transition homes (20%) was less than half that of shelters located elsewhere (46%). There was virtually no difference in the amount of second stage housing found among on-reserve and off-reserve shelters.

About half of on-reserve shelter residents were fleeing the abuse of a common-law partner

On April 19, 2006, about 150 women and children were seeking refuge in shelters on reserves, about eight out of ten to escape abuse. Like women in shelters off reserves, the vast majority of on-reserve shelter residents were fleeing abuse. However, the proportion of women escaping abuse was slightly greater among women residents in on-reserve shelters (78%), than among shelters located off reserve (73%).

Overall, about half of women in on-reserve and off-reserve facilities alike reported that their abuser was a current or former common-law partner (47% and 48%, respectively). And while there was little difference in the proportion of women in on-reserve (25%) and off-reserve (27%) facilities who were there to

escape the abuse of a current spouse, the women in on-reserve shelters who had experienced abuse by a former spouse was more than twice that of women in shelters elsewhere (8% versus 3%, respectively). The proportion of abused women in shelters on reserves fleeing an abusive relative, such as a parent or child, was also more than double that of women in off-reserve facilities (11% versus 5%, respectively).

Children less likely to accompany women staying in on-reserve shelters

The vast majority of women (85%) coming to shelters on reserves had children. However, less than two-thirds of these women brought their children with them to the shelters and were less likely to do so than women residing in off-reserve facilities, three-quarters of whom were accompanied by children. There are a variety of possible reasons for this difference. Some of these factors may relate to the geographic locations of on-reserve shelters and the role of family and community in Aboriginal culture. Similar to those living in rural areas (see section entitled, *Close-up: Rural and urban shelters*), women wanting to access an on-reserve shelter may have to travel from a different reserve or community. In such cases, bringing children to the shelter would mean uprooting them from their home, school and familiar surroundings.

Repeat stays were more common in on-reserve shelters

Women residing in on-reserve shelters on snapshot day were almost twice as likely as those in off-reserve facilities to have stayed in that shelter on a previous occasion. About two-thirds of on-reserve shelter residents had at least one prior admission, compared to just over one-third of those staying in off-reserve shelters.

While the proportion of repeat clients was higher on reserves, the number of previous stays among repeat clients was higher for off-reserve facilities. Women staying in on-reserve shelters were more likely than those elsewhere to have had one previous visit as opposed to multiple re-admissions. Specifically, about half of repeat residents (49%) in on-reserve shelters had been there once in the last 12 months, compared to 38% of those seeking refuge in facilities elsewhere. In contrast, while 16% of women with multiple stays in on-reserve shelters had between 2 and 4 prior visits, 20% of repeat residents in off-reserve shelters had been to the facility as many times in the last year. Similarly, the proportion of on-reserve residents re-admitted 5 or more times in the past year was smaller than in shelters off reserves (9% versus 14%, respectively). So, while residents of off-reserve shelters were less likely to have returned to a shelter, when they did go back, they did so more often than women returning to shelters on reserves.

A profile of facilities

In addition to providing information on annual admissions and a profile of the women and children using shelters on April 19, 2006, the THS also gathers data on the characteristics of the facilities, the services they offer, as well as revenue and expenditure figures.

According to the 2006 THS, nine in ten shelters served an urban area, 42% served rural areas and 28% served reserves (Table 8).¹⁵ Further, among facilities providing residential services to rural areas and reserves few did so exclusively, 12% and 7%, respectively. These findings lend support to other studies which point to the challenges women located in remote and rural areas may face in accessing shelters and their services due to their geographic location (For more information on rural versus urban shelters, refer to the section entitled, *Close-up: Rural and urban shelters*.)

Shelters offer services to residents, former residents and the general public

In addition to residential services, shelters offer those who walk through their doors a range of in-house programs and services (Table 9). Most facilities provided programming for children. Additionally, shelters extend their resources to those who are not staying in the facility, providing services to former residents and non-residents (Table 9). Few shelters provided in-house services to the partners of residents, with just 7% offering counselling. However, 39% of shelters did refer partners to an external agency for assistance.

Shelters serve victims and the public through their outreach work

Over a one-year period (April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006) shelters committed a total of 23,680 hours to outreach work.¹⁶ Moreover, on April 19, 2006 shelters responded to approximately 4,200 inquiries and requests for assistance, about 70% of which related to non-housing matters such as crisis and emotional support or general information. In a typical month, shelters received a total of 55,750 inquiries or on average, about 101 inquiries per facility.

Text box 3 Service gaps

The 2006 THS asked shelters to indicate where improvements in meeting resident needs were required. When asked to identify the top three service gaps the following were most frequently mentioned:

- Outreach services, public education and prevention programs (13%)
- Resources on housing or housing referral (12%)
- Child care services (9%)
- Transportation (9%)
- Follow-up services, transitional support, and services for former residents (8%)
- Second stage housing (8%)

Shelters take measures to enhance service accessibility

Canada's shelters for abused women are located across a number of geographic locations and offer a comprehensive array of services, some targeting specific populations such as Aboriginal women and children, ethno-cultural and visible minority women and children, clients over the age of 55, and lesbian clients. Furthermore, by offering services in different languages and alternate formats, as well as ensuring that the facility itself is physically accessible, shelters help to ensure that the services they provide are available to those who may need them (Table 9).

Text box 4

Shelters' annual revenues and expenditures¹

Canada's shelters for abused women reported annual revenues of approximately \$333 million for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2006.² Revenues from provincial ministries (71%), in particular those responsible for housing (57%), were the main sources of income for shelters. In total, government contributions from federal, provincial and municipal sources accounted for over 80% of shelter revenues for the 2005/2006 fiscal year. Donations and fundraising generated just under one-tenth of annual revenues.

Wage and salary costs are by far the biggest expenses incurred by shelters. For the 2005/2006 fiscal year, 70% of shelter expenditures went to salary costs. Expenses associated directly with clients, such as food, supplies, transportation and money disbursements to residents represented the next largest costs, constituting 6% of annual expenditures. The remaining costs were spread fairly evenly across several categories of expenses such as administrative costs (3%), office costs (2%), mortgage and taxes (2%), regular maintenance (2%), major repairs or improvements (2%) and other housing costs (5%).

Overall, total annual revenues for all shelters throughout Canada exceeded reported expenditures by about \$15.7 million. However, a closer examination reveals that about 58% of shelters reported a net gain, while 42% of shelters had expenditures that either exceeded (32%) or equalled (10%) their revenues. Among the types of facilities most commonly used by women, second stage housing (48%) and emergency shelters (44%) were the most likely to have just covered their expenditures or experienced a net loss; this was less often the case for transition homes (39%) and women's emergency centres (28%).

1. According to the 2006 THS, 72% of shelters provided estimated financial data, 21% reported audited financial figures and 7% were not sure whether the financial data were estimated or audited.
2. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide financial information for the 12 month period beginning April 1, 2005 and ending March 31, 2006, or using their own twelve-month fiscal period.

Women's emergency shelters and second stage housing more common among rural shelters

The distribution of facility-types in rural and urban settings shared some commonalities. The proportion of emergency-type facilities in rural areas (26%) resembled the proportion in urban locations (22%). Nevertheless, differences between the types of shelters found in rural versus urban settings were apparent. While taking emergency-type facilities together as a whole reveals few rural-urban differences, taken separately, women's emergency centres were more common in rural settings (21%, versus 9% of urban shelters) and emergency shelters were a more likely facility-type in urban areas (13%, versus 5% of rural shelters). In addition, second stage homes were more common among rural shelters (26%) than urban facilities (19%), as were safe home networks (5% and 3%, respectively). Conversely, transition homes constituted a slightly smaller proportion of facility-types in rural (37%) versus urban (48%) locations.

Fewer services offered in rural shelters

Like urban shelters, safety or protection planning, transportation and accompaniment and individual short term counselling were among the in-house services most frequently offered by rural facilities. Moreover, rural and urban shelters offered residents some services with comparable frequency: transportation and accompaniment (84% rural, 89% urban); services for Aboriginal women (58% rural, 58% urban); services for older women (32% rural, 37% urban); and family counselling programs (11% rural, 16% urban). However as suggested earlier, the array of programming and services was generally more extensive among urban facilities than rural shelters.

With the exception of crisis telephone lines (74% rural, 60% urban), shelters in rural areas were notably less likely than urban-area shelters to offer many of the 23 services listed in Table 11. For example, services such as job training and employment counselling (8% rural, 25% urban), medical services (26% rural, 46% urban), addiction counselling (26% rural, 45% urban), financial assistance or welfare services (42% rural, 67% urban) and advocacy (68% rural, 89% urban) were available to women residing in rural facilities far less often.

Abused women in rural shelters less likely to be accompanied by children

Comparable proportions of abused women residing in rural shelters and urban shelters had parenting responsibilities, 70% and 67%, respectively. However, the proportion of mothers staying in rural shelters who were admitted without their children (52%) was about twice that of mothers residing in urban shelters (22%). On April 19, 2006, abused women residing in rural facilities were slightly more likely to be using women's emergency-type shelters (32%) compared to those in urban facilities (25%). Additionally among abused women staying in rural shelters, a smaller proportion resided in transition homes (33%), relative to women in urban shelters (48%). Thus, greater use of facilities that focus more on crisis intervention and a reduced use of facilities offering longer residency periods may help to explain the lower percentage of rural women bringing their children with them to shelters.

Close-up: rural and urban shelters

Women in rural areas and villages seeking shelter from domestic abuse may experience different needs and encounter distinct barriers compared to women in urban and suburban areas. For example, the geographic isolation of many rural settings may reduce women's access to resources such as family, friends, social service agencies including emergency shelters and transition homes, as well as long-term and affordable housing (Purdon, 2004; Lunn, 2001). Moreover, the nature and extent of the services and programming offered by rural shelters may be uniquely affected by the geographic location of these facilities.

In 2006, 293 shelters (53% of all shelters) served urban areas exclusively and 38 shelters (7% of all shelters) served either a rural area exclusively (30) or served a rural area as well as a reserve (8). And while there were similarities in the profiles of the more than 290 urban shelters compared to the 38 rural facilities, there were also some notable differences.

Additionally, women in rural regions may have to travel some distance from their home in order to access a shelter, which in turn, may be a factor in determining whether or not they are accompanied by their children.

Urban facilities were five times more likely to shelter residents with five or more previous admissions

About one-third of women residing in rural (38%) and urban (31%) shelters had stayed in those facilities on at least one prior occasion. However, the proportion of women returning to shelters fewer than 5 times in the last year was higher for rural facilities (63%) than urban shelters (56%). In contrast, the proportion of repeat clients with 5 or more re-admissions was five times greater in urban (21%) versus rural shelters (4%). Still, among re-admissions to both rural and urban shelters single repeat stays were generally the most common, accounting for 47% of repeat residents in rural shelters and 35% of women with a previous stay in urban facilities.

Data sources and methodology

Transition Home Survey

The Transition Home Survey (THS) was developed under the federal government's Family Violence Initiative in consultation with provincial/territorial governments and transition home associations. The objectives of the survey are to collect information on the characteristics of residential services for abused women and their children during the previous twelve months of operation. In addition, the THS collects information on selected characteristics for the women and children residing in these shelters on a specified 'snapshot' day. In 1991/1992, Statistics Canada began collecting basic information on transition home services and clientele. A more comprehensive survey was developed and administered in 1992/93 and was repeated, with some changes, in 1994/1995, and every second year from 1997/1998 to 2005/2006.

The THS is a biennial mail-out/mail-back census survey of all residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children. Shelters that serve a broader population, in addition to women escaping domestic violence, such as those providing residential services to male victims of spousal abuse and men and women seeking refuge for reasons other than abuse, are also included on the THS. Facilities that exclusively serve male victims of spousal abuse fall outside the scope of this survey. At the time of this survey, one such facility was known to be in operation. The THS does not include shelters that do not provide residential services.

Of the 553 residential facilities providing services to abused women and their children, 486 returned their questionnaires for a response rate of 88%. Across Canada, response rates were highest among shelters in Prince Edward Island (100%), Nova Scotia (94%), Newfoundland and Labrador (93%), and British Columbia (93%). Response rates for the three territories were notably lower than the national average, with just half of shelters in Yukon and 40% in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut responding to the current cycle of the THS. Due to the low response rates and the limited number of facilities located

in the territories, information for shelters in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been combined in this report (unless otherwise specified).

Separate questionnaires were completed for facilities that had two or more residences under the same name or address. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one facility-type had to be included on one questionnaire. In these cases, the determination of facility-type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities.

Imputation procedure for the 2006 THS

In 2005/2006, an imputation procedure was used for the first time to replace missing data for non-respondents on the THS. While the response rate for the THS has ranged from 87% to 92% since 1998, the use of a simple imputation strategy to treat non-response makes the THS estimates even more meaningful by having a complete micro-data file.

Potential THS respondents were grouped into three main categories based on the extent to which they had completed 12 key questions.¹⁷ Specifically, the three respondent groupings were defined as follows:

Complete respondent: submitted a questionnaire and there was a response for each of the 12 key questions. There were 425 complete respondents.

Partial non-respondent: submitted a questionnaire but did not answer all of the key questions. There were 59 partial non-respondents.

Complete non-respondent: did not submit a questionnaire and only the province and facility type of the shelter were known. There were 67 complete non-respondents.

After the procedure, the imputed data were tested for statistically significant differences from the data collected from respondents. The results from the test show no statistically meaningful differences between the imputed and respondent data.

The General Social Survey on Victimization

The General Social Survey (GSS) is an annual survey that monitors changes in Canadian society and provides information on specific policy issues of current or emerging interest. Each year, the GSS focuses on various regular topics (including time use, social support, the family, technology and victimization). In 2004, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the GSS for a fourth time. Previous surveys were conducted in 1988, 1993 and 1999. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of the prevalence of eight offence types (based on the *Criminal Code* definitions) and to examine factors related to the risk of victimization, victims' willingness to report crimes to the police, reasons for not reporting, and to measure public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

The GSS is a telephone sample survey covering the non-institutionalized population aged 15 years or older in the ten provinces. In 2004, a total of approximately 24,000 people were interviewed with a response rate of 75%.

Please see the annual publication *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*, for results from the 2004 GSS on spousal and family violence.

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Endnotes

1. The Transition Home Survey (THS) covers a fiscal-year period (e.g., April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006). However for the purposes of this report, the surveys' respective ending years will be used to refer to each cycle of the THS. Therefore, for example, the 2005/2006 THS will be referred to simply as the 2006 THS; the 2003/2004 THS will be referred to as the 2004 THS and so on.
2. While this *Juristat* focuses on providing a national picture of women's shelters, some information at the provincial and territorial level is also presented. However due to the limited number of facilities, in conjunction with low response rates to the 2006 THS, information for shelters in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been combined for reasons of confidentiality and data quality. (For more information, see the *Data Sources & Methodology* section of this report.)
3. An imputation procedure was used to replace the missing data from non-respondents. Therefore, the data in this report are representative of all shelters known to be operation in Canada at the time of the 2006 THS, and not just those that responded to the survey. Imputation was not conducted for non-respondents from cycles of the survey prior to 2006. (For more information, see the *Data Sources and Methodology* section of this report.)
4. The objective of the THS is to build a portrait of the residential services utilized by abused women. While emergency shelters typically serve a broad population, in addition to abused women, emergency facilities are a resource utilized by women fleeing abuse, and therefore are included on the survey.
5. Throughout this report the term 'emergency-type' facility will be used to refer jointly to women's emergency centres and general emergency shelters. Readers should keep in mind that emergency shelters typically serve a broad population, in addition to abused women.
6. The precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own 12-month fiscal period.
7. In addition to presenting findings from the most recent cycle of the THS, this report also includes an analysis of time-series data from the THS trend file. The THS trend file compiles data from facilities participating in each cycle of the THS starting in 1998, thereby controlling for non-response and the composition of facility-types. The THS trend file is based on a subset of 327 shelters or 59% of the shelters surveyed in 2006.
8. According to Census data, the number of children under the age of 15 in the Canadian population declined about 5% between 1998 and 2006.
9. Usage rates should not be considered a proxy measure for the incidence of spousal violence.
10. Shelters were asked to report the types of abuse women residents were fleeing. Shelters were instructed to report as many kinds of abuse that applied for each resident. Therefore, multiple responses for one woman were possible and the percentages for each type of abuse will not total 100%.
11. Shelters were asked to report on whether or not residents were admitted to the shelter with or without their children. However, it is unknown whether women not accompanied by their children had legal and/or physical custody of those children prior to coming to the shelters.
12. Figures from the THS on repeat admissions reflect re-admissions of clients to the same shelter and do not count women who may have previously sought shelter in a different facility.

13. There were 4 departures from second stage houses on April 19, 2006. Most of these women intended to find a new place to live or to return home without their spouse or partner.
14. In the fall of 2006, the federal government announced a \$6 million investment over 2006-2007 for shelters in First Nations communities to help bolster and develop programs and services aimed at eliminating and preventing family violence.
15. 2001 Census figures indicate that 79% of Canadians live in an urban area, 20% in a rural area and 1% live on a reserve. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre. Rural

areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

16. Outreach work included activities such as supplying information, accompanying victims to court, meeting with clients to discuss possibilities/options, and participating in drop-in centres.
17. Excludes composite respondents; those for whom information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one questionnaire.

Table 1

Number of shelters operating and responding to the Transition Home Survey (THS), Canada, provinces and territories, 2005/2006^{1,2}

	Shelters in operation	Shelters responding to the 2006 THS	Response rate
	number	number	percentage
Canada	553	486	88
Newfoundland and Labrador	14	13	93
Prince Edward Island	4	4	100
Nova Scotia	17	16	94
New Brunswick	23	20	87
Quebec	117	105	90
Ontario	156	136	87
Manitoba	28	23	82
Saskatchewan	23	19	83
Alberta	48	43	90
British Columbia	107	100	93
Yukon	6	3	50
Northwest Territories and Nunavut ³	10	4	40

1. Facilities that house or operate more than one type of shelter (e.g., transition home, emergency shelter and second stage housing) are asked to complete a separate survey for each shelter type. However, in a small number of cases it was not possible to obtain separate questionnaires for each shelter and information for more than one shelter type had to be included on one survey. In such cases, the determination of facility-type was based on the main focus of the facilities' activities (see *Data sources and methodology*).

2. Compared to the 2003/2004 THS, 2005/2006 response rates were notably higher for Newfoundland and Labrador (86% vs. 93%); and Saskatchewan (78% vs. 83%) and were lower for Nova Scotia (100% vs. 94%); New Brunswick (94% vs. 87%); Alberta (98% vs. 90%); and Northwest Territories and Nunavut (62% vs. 40%).

3. Due to the limited number of facilities and with low response rates for Northwest Territories and Nunavut, information for shelters in these territories has been combined, for reasons of confidentiality and data quality.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 2

Annual admissions by facility type, Canada, provinces and territories, 2005/2006¹

	Facility type														
	All facility types			Transition house			Women's emergency centre			Emergency shelter			Second stage housing		
	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children
Canada	105,711	60,057	41,707	49,375	27,432	19,332	25,532	13,947	11,503	18,556	10,720	6,863	3,844	1,749	2,054
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,125	697	428	894	508	386	25	25	0	81	81	0	90	49	41
Prince Edward Island	162	77	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	67	76	19	10	9
Nova Scotia	1,766	1,062	704	1,569	971	598	0	0	0	59	27	32	138	64	74
New Brunswick	2,296	1,447	757	1,626	915	619	0	0	0	339	306	33	122	69	53
Quebec	18,250	10,908	6,553	14,799	8,586	5,698	947	383	494	324	286	38	490	259	231
Ontario	31,858	18,608	12,389	10,889	6,168	4,633	5,216	3,198	2,018	11,532	6,762	4,021	1,172	519	629
Manitoba	7,936	4,113	3,803	921	419	482	4,025	2,005	2,020	2,025	962	1,063	308	211	97
Saskatchewan	6,380	3,141	3,015	1,852	927	925	3,784	1,975	1,809	623	191	208	121	48	73
Alberta	14,326	7,702	6,607	904	484	420	8,811	4,078	4,733	2,076	1,257	819	1,000	355	628
British Columbia	18,604	10,603	6,077	14,370	7,522	4,972	2,409	2,110	287	486	316	170	362	154	208
Yukon	857	549	288	727	462	245	113	77	36	0	0	0	17	10	7
Northwest Territories and Nunavut ²	2,151	1,150	1,001	824	470	354	202	96	106	868	465	403	5	1	4

	Facility type								
	Family resource centre			Safe home network			Other ³		
	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children	Total	Women	Children
Canada	1,638	920	718	1,395	669	690	5,371	4,620	547
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	34	1
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Brunswick	0	0	0	0	0	0	209	157	52
Quebec	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,690	1,394	92
Ontario	1,638	920	718	166	50	116	1,245	991	254
Manitoba	0	0	0	0	0	0	657	516	141
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alberta	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,535	1,528	7
British Columbia	0	0	0	977	501	440	0	0	0
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut ²	0	0	0	252	118	134	0	0	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Precise reporting period may vary. Shelters were asked to provide information for the twelve-month period ending March 31, 2006 or their own twelve month fiscal period. Because the number and type of shelters participating in each cycle of the Transition Home Survey may vary, comparisons of admissions from 2005-2006 to results from previous survey cycles are not advisable.

2. Due to the limited number of facilities in conjunction with low response rates for Northwest Territories and Nunavut, information for shelters in these territories has been combined, for reasons of confidentiality and data quality.

3. 'Other' includes all other facilities not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

Note: The woman-child distribution of annual admissions was unknown for about 3% of admissions; in such cases shelters only provided the total number of admission for the year but were unable to provide a breakdown for women and children. Therefore, total admissions may not equal the sum of admissions for women and children.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 3

Rate of women in shelters to escape the abuse of a current/former spouse or common-law partner on April 19, 2006, Canada, provinces and territories^{1,2}

	Total women in shelters to escape abuse of current/former spouse or partner		Population married, common-law and separated women	Rate per 100,000 married, common-law and separated women
	number	percentage		
Canada	2,295	79	7,860,910	29
Newfoundland and Labrador	44	77	138,293	32
Prince Edward Island	6	75	35,459	17
Nova Scotia	65	86	236,139	28
New Brunswick	56	84	191,271	29
Quebec	448	85	1,794,329	25
Ontario	921	77	3,105,140	30
Manitoba	102	84	273,726	37
Saskatchewan	83	84	235,069	35
Alberta	221	75	785,627	28
British Columbia	309	77	1,043,685	30
Yukon	20	74	7,609	263
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	20	69	14,563	137

1. Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. Population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1: preliminary post-censal estimates for 2006.

2. Separated includes persons currently married, but who are no longer living with their spouse (for any reason other than illness or work) and have not obtained a divorce. Persons who are separated but who live with a common-law partner are not included in this category.

Note: Comparisons across jurisdictions should be made with caution, as factors such as shelter capacity and availability can influence rates of usage. Moreover, usage rates should not be considered a proxy measure for the incidence of spousal violence in a province or territory.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 4

Frequency of previous shelter stays within the last 12 months by facility type, Canada, 2005/2006

	1 time	2 to 4 times	5 or more times	Number of times unknown	More than 12 months since last stay
	percentage of repeat residents				
Transition house	51	23	4	1	21
Second stage housing	53	2	8	1	37
Safe home network	15	31	31	15	8
Women's emergency shelter	30	23	7	7	33
Emergency shelter	28	26	21	17	9
Family resource centre (Ontario)	37	23	0	3	37
Other ¹	18	14	49	0	18
All shelters	39	20	14	5	22

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. 'Other' includes all other facilities not otherwise classified. This category may include Rural Family Violence Prevention Centres in Alberta, Interim Housing in Manitoba, and other types of emergency shelters, such as YWCA's. These services may not be exclusive to abused women.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 5

Age groups of abused women residing in shelters on April 19, 2006, Canada

	Number	Percentage of all women admitted for abuse	Population of single, married, separated, common-law women	Rate per 100,000 population of single, married, separated, common-law women
15 to 24 years	500	17	2,137,835	23
25 to 34 years	975	33	2,129,932	46
35 to 44 years	714	25	2,345,099	30
45 to 54 years	311	11	2,135,326	15
55 years and over	145	5	2,603,461	6
Age unknown	267	9	...	...
Total women admitted due to abuse	2,912	100	4,738,787	2

... not applicable

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 6

Selected characteristics of abused women residing in shelters, April 19, 2006, Canada

	Number	Percentage
Total women admitted due to abuse	2,912	100
Parental status		
Admitted with their child(ren)	1,498	51
Admitted without their child(ren) ¹	478	16
No children/parenting responsibilities	632	22
Unknown	304	10
Disabilities		
Total women with a disability	288	10
Mobility ²	103	36
Visual ²	9	3
Hearing ²	21	7
Other ³	148	...
Relationship to abuser		
Common-law partner	1,130	39
Spouse	786	27
Ex-common-law partner	276	9
Dating or ex-dating relationship	172	6
Relative (e.g., parent, child)	152	5
Ex-spouse	103	4
Other ⁴	123	4
Unknown	170	6

... not applicable

1. It is not known if women admitted without their children had custody of those children at the time of admittance.

2. This was a multiple response item. Percentages are based on the 'total women with a disability' who were in shelters for reasons of abuse on April 19, 2006.

3. Percentages of all women were unavailable for this item due to multiple responses per respondent (i.e., one woman could have more than one 'other' disability).

4. 'Other' includes all other relationship not otherwise classified.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 7

Shelters on reserves, Canada, provinces and territories, 2005/2006

	On-reserve shelters	On-reserve shelters as a percentage of all shelters
		percentage
Canada	100	5
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0
Nova Scotia	10	18
New Brunswick	0	0
Quebec	7	2
Ontario	40	8
Manitoba	7	7
Saskatchewan	3	4
Alberta	13	8
British Columbia	20	6
Yukon	0	0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	0	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 8

Shelters' areas of service, Canada, provinces and territories, 2005/2006¹

	Urban/suburban ²	Rural ³	Reserve ⁴
		percentage	
Canada	90	42	28
Newfoundland and Labrador	93	36	0
Prince Edward Island	75	50	25
Nova Scotia	88	65	47
New Brunswick	87	52	26
Quebec	92	36	15
Ontario	88	38	25
Manitoba	93	57	57
Saskatchewan	91	70	61
Alberta	88	48	40
British Columbia	91	35	29
Yukon	67	50	17
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	100	40	20

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Percentages will not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

2. Urban/suburban areas have minimum population concentrations of 1,000 and a population density of at least 400 people per square kilometre.

3. Rural areas include small towns, villages, and other populated places with less than 1,000 population.

4. Reserves are defined by a tract of land set aside by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nations Band which is governed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 9

Services provided by shelters to women residents, ex-residents and non-residents, Canada, 2005/2006¹

	In-house services provided by shelters to women					
	Residents		Non-residents		Ex-residents	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Safety or protection planning	511	92	367	66	381	69
Individual short term counselling	503	91	350	63	359	65
Advocacy	498	90	346	63	368	67
Transportation/accompaniment	495	90	261	47	304	55
Housing referral	473	86	270	49	290	52
Parenting skills	423	76	221	40	253	46
Life skills	416	75	214	39	253	46
Group counselling	365	66	247	45	267	48
Financial assistance or welfare services	365	66	238	43	240	43
Legal services	364	66	257	46	264	48
Crisis telephone line	363	66	376	68	360	65
Services for women with disabilities	358	65	219	40	208	38
Lesbian sensitive services	356	64	242	44	233	42
Culturally sensitive services for Aboriginal women	348	63	224	41	227	41
Culturally sensitive services for ethno-cultural and visible minority women	334	60	209	38	201	36
Mental health services	297	54	194	35	194	35
Medical services	265	48	146	26	152	27
Recreation services	253	46	67	12	113	20
Addiction counselling	242	44	163	29	166	30
Services for older women	218	39	143	26	143	26
Individual long term counselling	198	36	196	35	238	43
Job training/employment counselling	137	25	70	13	83	15
Family counselling programs	98	18	60	11	66	12

1. Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 10

Service accessibility, Canada, 2005/2006

	Number	Percentage of all shelters ¹
Spoken languages in which shelters provided services		
English	529	96
French	316	57
Spanish	138	25
Punjabi	71	13
German	69	12
Cree	69	12
Polish	58	10
Portuguese	42	8
Arabic	41	7
Italian	41	7
Ojibway	38	7
Chinese	38	7
Ukrainian	29	5
Dutch	25	5
Tagalog	21	4
Vietnamese	20	4
Greek	19	3
Inuktitut	15	3
Other	132	24
Shelters with wheelchair accessibility		
Entrance	416	75
Bedroom	343	62
Bathroom	362	65
Services for the deaf/hearing impaired		
TTY/TDD	126	23
Sign language or interpretation	93	17
Other	61	11
Services for the blind/visually impaired		
Braille reading materials	18	3
Large print reading materials	99	18
Other	35	6

1. Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 11

Services provided by rural and urban shelters to women residents, ex-residents and non-residents, Canada, 2005/2006¹

	In-house services provided by shelters to women					
	Residents		Non-residents		Ex-residents	
	Rural shelters	Urban shelters	Rural shelters	Urban shelters	Rural shelters	Urban shelters
	percentage					
Safety or protection planning	89	90	63	60	61	66
Transportation/accompaniment	84	89	61	38	63	49
Individual short term counselling	79	89	58	54	58	61
Crisis telephone line	74	60	71	61	63	59
Housing referral	68	86	50	43	50	48
Advocacy	68	89	55	55	55	61
Parenting skills	58	71	34	33	32	42
Culturally sensitive services for						
Aboriginal women	58	58	39	32	39	34
Lesbian sensitive services	55	66	42	38	39	39
Legal services	50	66	45	42	39	48
Life skills	50	75	26	33	26	44
Individual long term counselling	45	33	50	27	50	38
Services for women with disabilities	45	61	34	32	29	31
Financial assistance or welfare services	42	67	34	39	32	42
Group counselling	39	61	34	36	37	42
Culturally sensitive services for						
ethno-cultural and visible minority women	37	63	26	33	21	36
Mental health services	34	53	32	31	29	34
Recreation services	32	48	13	12	18	22
Services for older women	32	37	24	22	24	24
Addiction counselling	26	45	18	26	21	29
Medical services	26	46	18	21	16	24
Family counselling programs	11	16	5	8	8	10
Job training/employment counselling	8	25	3	11	5	14

1. Percentages will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses. Percentages for rural shelters are based on the 30 shelters that serve either rural areas exclusively or rural and reserve areas. Percentages for urban shelters are based on the 254 shelters that serve urban areas exclusively.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Transition Home Survey, 2005/2006.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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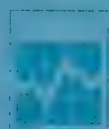
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Crime Statistics in Canada, 2006

by Warren Silver



Highlights

- The national crime rate reached its lowest point in over 25 years in 2006. The crime rate dropped by 3% last year, following a 5% decline in 2005. The crime rate has decreased by about 30% since peaking in 1991, after increasing steadily throughout the 1960s, 70s, and 80s.
- The drop in 2006 was driven by declines in non-violent crimes, primarily counterfeiting, thefts under \$5,000 and break-ins.
- The decline in crime was seen right across the country. Among the provinces, the largest decreases were reported in Prince Edward Island, Alberta, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.
- While the overall violent crime rate remained stable in 2006, increases were seen in many serious violent crimes: attempted murders, aggravated assaults, assaults with a weapon or causing bodily harm, robberies and kidnappings/forcible confinement. However, the homicide rate dropped 10%, following increases in the two previous years.
- The rate of break-ins in Canada has fallen to its lowest level in over 30 years. Since peaking in 1991, the break-in rate has fallen 50%, including a 5% drop in 2006.
- Unlike many crimes which peaked in the early 1990s, motor vehicle thefts continued to climb in Canada until 1996. While the decline in vehicle thefts over the past decade has not been as large as for break-ins, it has dropped by 20%. In 2006, the rate dropped a further 2%.
- The youth crime rate increased 3% in 2006, the first increase since 2003. This increase was largely driven by a 9% increase in "other" *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief and disturbing the peace. Youth violent crime rose 3% while property crime dropped 3%. The 2006 rate of youths accused of homicide was the highest since 1961, when data were first collected.
- In keeping with the principles of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), although more youths came into contact with the police in 2006, fewer were formally charged. The rates of youths formally charged dropped by 1%, while the rate of youths cleared by means other than the laying of a charge rose 6%.
- Since the introduction of the YCJA, the proportion of apprehended youths formally charged by police has dropped from 56% in 2002 (pre-YCJA) to 42% in 2006. However, for serious violent crimes, almost three-quarters of youths were formally charged in 2006.
- Total drug crimes increased slightly (+2%) in 2006. Cannabis offences continue to account for about 60% of all drug offences, and these were down 4%. At the same time, cocaine offences were up 13% and other drug offences, including crystal meth, rose 8%.



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Introduction

This *Juristat* examines 2006 police-reported crime data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. In Canada, crimes coming to the attention of the police as well as those that have been detected through police investigation have been systematically collected through the UCR survey since 1962. All police services submit data monthly to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) according to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions. All the data presented in this report are aggregate counts. More detailed data from the incident-based UCR2 survey are released in conjunction with the homicide microdata release in the fall.

These official crime statistics can be used to examine trends in overall crime and for specific offences. Crime statistics can be compared among provinces and territories as well as among major cities. For information on factors influencing police-reported crime rates as well as key definitions, terminology and an overview of the survey methodology, please refer to the sections at the end of this report.

Another measure of criminality in our society comes from the General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization. This survey is conducted every five years, with the latest being done in 2004. The survey asks Canadians 15 years of age and older about their personal experiences of victimization and whether or not the incident was reported to police. The GSS collects information on 8 crime types, while the UCR survey collects information on over 100 separate criminal offences. According to the 2004 GSS, about one third (34%) of criminal victimizations are reported to the police. Therefore, this survey provides complementary data on incidents not reported to police.¹

2006 crime data

Crime rate at lowest point in over 25 years

The national crime rate, defined as the total number of *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic and drug offences) divided by the population, dropped by 3% in 2006, following a 5% decline in 2005. The crime rate has generally been decreasing since 1991, dropping by about 30%; this puts the 2006 crime rate at its lowest level in over 25 years (Figure 1).

The drop in 2006 was driven by declines in non-violent crimes. Overall *Criminal Code* incidents dropped by approximately 60,000 in 2006. Counterfeiting incidents accounted for much of this drop, down 29%. In addition, there were about 22,000 fewer thefts under \$5,000 (a drop of 4%) and 11,000 fewer break-ins (down 5%).

While the overall violent crime rate remained stable in 2006, the homicide rate dropped 10%, following increases in the two previous years. However, increases were seen in most other serious violent crimes, similar to 2005: attempted murders (+3%), aggravated assaults (+5%), assaults with a weapon or causing bodily harm (+4%), robberies (+6%) and kidnappings/forcible confinement (+12%).

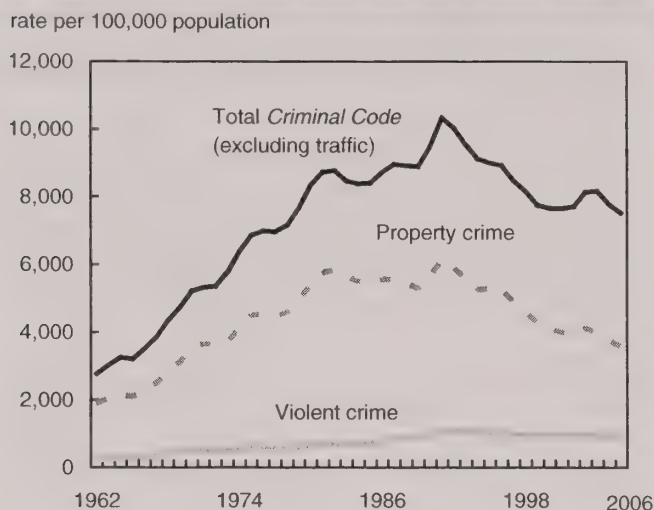
Drop in crime seen right across the country

The drop in crime at the national level was seen right across the country. Among the provinces, the largest drop was reported in Prince Edward Island (-11%), followed by declines of about 5% in Alberta, New Brunswick, and British Columbia.

Despite a 4% drop in overall crime, Saskatchewan reported the highest crime rate among the provinces for the 9th year in a row, followed by Manitoba and British Columbia (Figure 2). The lowest rates were found in Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador, continuing the pattern seen since 1999.

Figure 1

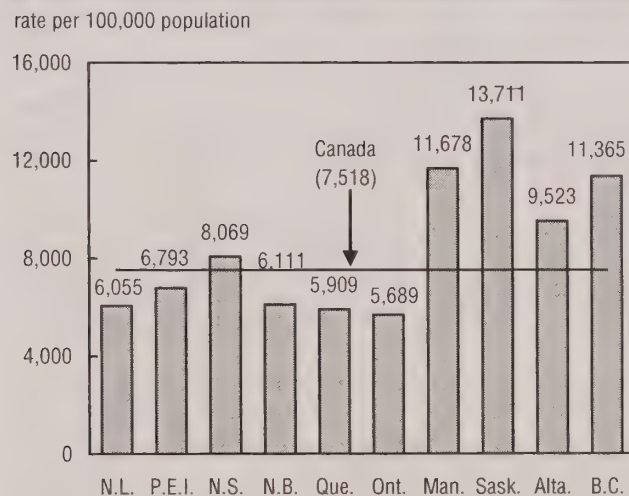
Crime rates, Canada, 1962 to 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Figure 2

Crime rates by province, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

For violent crime, most provinces were stable or declining with the exception of small increases in Québec and Saskatchewan. Property crime rates were stable or declining in all provinces and territories, most notably a 13% decline in Saskatchewan.

The largest declines in overall crime among Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in 2006 occurred in the west: Saskatoon (-9%), Abbotsford (-8%) and Regina (-8%). Despite these drops, the highest overall crime rates were also in western Canada: Regina, Saskatoon, Abbotsford, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton and Victoria, similar to previous years. The largest increase among the CMAs was reported in London (+9%), followed by Sudbury (+8%) and Saguenay (+8%). Despite this increase, Saguenay still reported the lowest crime rate, followed by Trois-Rivières, Québec and Toronto.

Text box 1

Census metropolitan areas (CMAs)

A CMA represents one or more adjacent municipalities centered on an urban core of at least 100,000 population. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. As of 2005, there were 27 CMAs in Canada, accounting for about two-thirds of the Canadian population.

A recent Statistics Canada study found that crime is not necessarily a large urban phenomenon.¹ Small urban areas in Canada were found to have higher overall police-reported crime rates in 2005 than large urban areas (defined as CMAs) and rural areas. Homicide rates were found to be consistently highest in rural areas. However, CMAs reported the highest rates for both robbery and motor vehicle theft. In particular, robbery rates in CMAs were more than double those of small urban areas and almost 10 times higher than rural areas.

1. Statistics Canada. 2007. A Comparison of Large Urban, Small Urban and Rural Crime Rates, *Juristat*, Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE.

Homicide rate down 10%

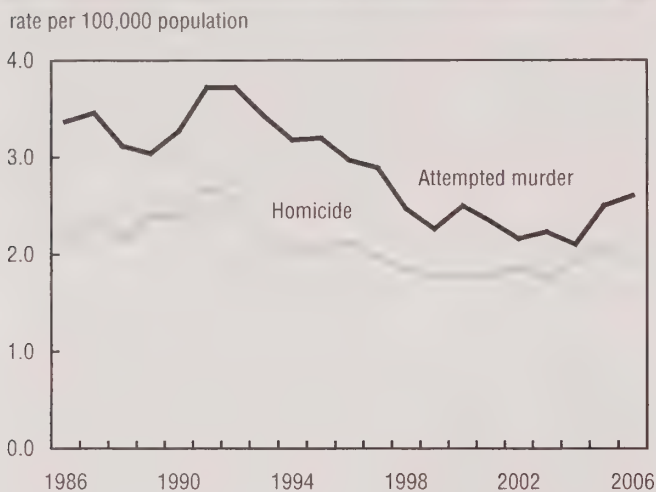
Police reported 605 homicides in 2006, 58 fewer than the previous year. This resulted in a rate of 1.85 homicides per 100,000 population, 10% lower than the 2005 rate. The decrease in 2006 follows two consecutive years of increases. The national homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970s, when it was around 3.0 homicides per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

Virtually all provinces and territories reported declines in their homicide rate in 2006. The most notable drops occurred in Ontario (23 fewer homicides), Alberta (12 fewer) and Manitoba (10 fewer). British Columbia (+7) and P.E.I. (+1) were the only provinces to record increases in homicides.

The highest homicide rates were found, once again, in the western provinces (Figure 4). Saskatchewan, with 40 homicides, reported the highest rate, followed by Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. The lowest rates were in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The rate in Quebec was the lowest in that province in 40 years.

Figure 3

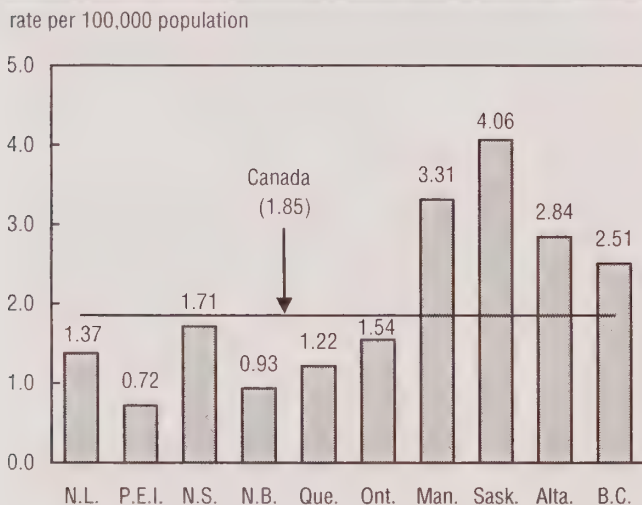
Homicide and attempted murder rate, Canada, 1986 to 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Figure 4

Homicide rate by province, 2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Homicide rates decreased in five of the nine largest CMAs over 500,000 population, including three of the western CMAs: Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver. Bucking the overall trend, the Ottawa-Gatineau area reported an unusually high

number of homicides in 2006. The rate in Gatineau (3.1) was the highest in almost 20 years and Ottawa's rate (1.8) was the highest in over a decade.

Among all 27 CMAs, the highest homicide rates were reported in Regina (at 4.5 homicides per 100,000 population), Edmonton (3.7), Saskatoon (3.3), Gatineau (3.1) and Winnipeg (3.0). Two Quebec CMAs reported no homicides in 2006: Saguenay and Trois-Rivières.

Increases seen in other serious violent crimes

The overall violent crime rate remained unchanged in 2006 mainly due to the relative stability in the rate of minor assaults, which account for about 6 in 10 violent crimes. However, other than the drop in homicides, most other serious violent crimes were on the rise, similar to 2005.

There were 852 attempted murders in 2006, 30 more than the previous year and the second consecutive annual increase. However, the rate of attempted murders has generally been decreasing since the early 1990s. The decline in homicides in 2006 was partially offset by the increase in attempted murders. Historically, this has not been the case, as the trends for homicide and attempted murder have been very similar.

Aggravated assaults, the most serious form of assault, also increased for the 2nd year in a row as well, up 5%. Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm continued its upward trend, increasing for the 7th straight year, up 4%. This resulted in the highest rate for this offence since it was introduced into the *Criminal Code* in 1983.

There were about 30,000 robberies in 2006, a 6% increase in the rate. Although this was the second consecutive annual increase in the robbery rate, it has generally been declining since the early 1990s (Figure 5). While robberies were up in most provinces, the most notable increase was seen in Saskatchewan, up 18%. This gave Saskatchewan the second highest robbery rate among the provinces, behind only Manitoba (Figure 6).

Approximately one in every eight robberies in 2006 involved a firearm. Robberies with a firearm had been declining since the early 1990s, although this offence increased in 2006, up 4%.

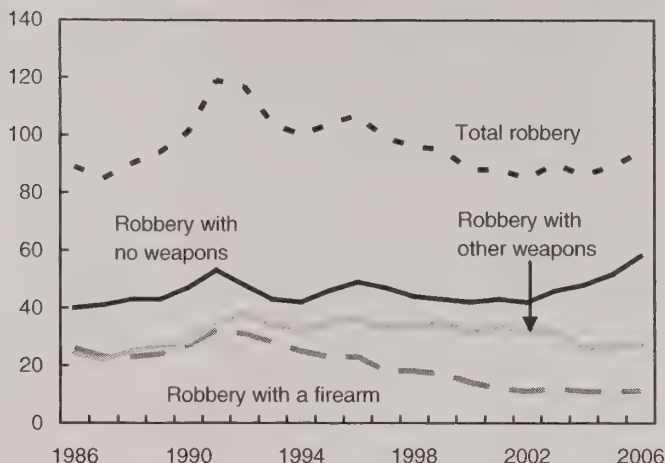
Another offence that has been increasing over the past 20 years is kidnapping/forcible confinement.² The number of these offences reported to police has increased from around 500 per year in the mid-1980s to over 4,000 in 2006. This represents an almost seven-fold increase in the rate for this offence.

While kidnappings/forcible confinement incidents have been increasing, abductions of children and youth have been decreasing over the past 15 years. In 2006, there were 535 abductions reported to police, down from over 1,200 in 1992. Generally, about two-thirds of abductions of children and youth are by parents, and about 60% of these parental abductions contravene a custody order.³ Strangers account for about one-quarter of all abductions.

Figure 5

Robbery rate, Canada, 1986 to 2006

rate per 100,000 population

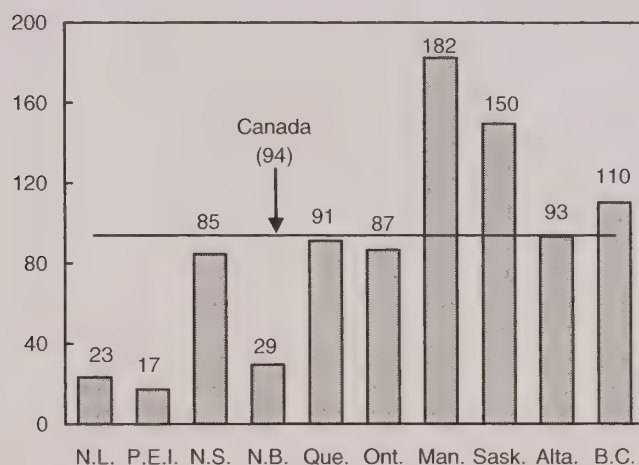


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Figure 6

Robbery rate by province, 2006

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

One violent offence that did record a drop in 2006 was sexual assault. The rate dropped 7% in 2006, continuing the general decline evident since the early 1990s. The 2006 rate was the lowest in over 20 years.

Declines reported in break-ins and motor vehicle thefts

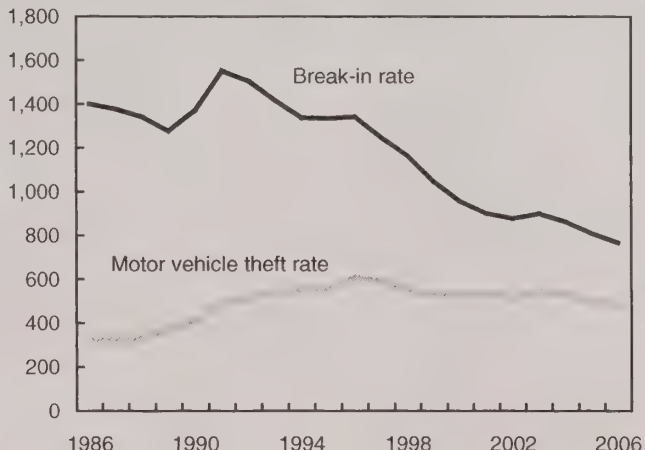
The rate of break-ins in Canada dropped to its lowest level in over 30 years. Since peaking in 1991, the rate has fallen 50%, including a 5% drop in 2006 (Figure 7). There were about 250,000 break-ins reported to police in 2006, of which almost six in ten were to residences. Both residential and commercial break-ins declined last year.

Part of the reason for these reductions in break-ins in many communities may be related to innovative police crime fighting programs targeting break-ins in specific high-risk neighbourhoods.⁴ Another contributing factor may be an increase in the use of home security devices by Canadians. The GSS reported that more than twice as many Canadians had installed burglar alarms or motion detectors in 2004 (31%) than in 1993 (15%).⁵ Also, 34% of Canadians reported in 2004 that they had installed new locks or security bars in their home.

Figure 7

Break-in and motor vehicle theft rate, Canada, 1986 to 2006

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

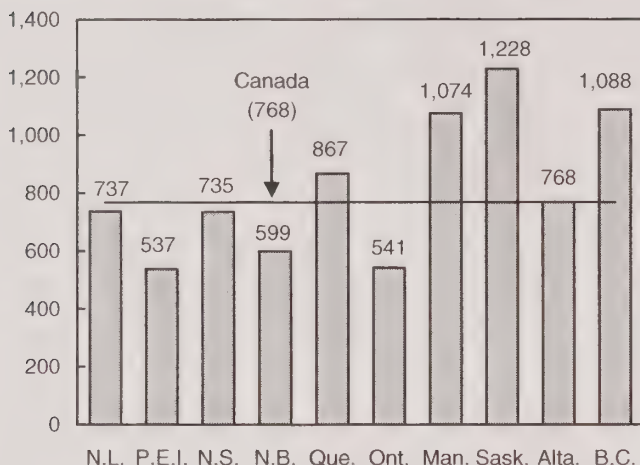
The decline in break-ins was seen right across the country, with the exception of Quebec where it remained stable. The largest drops in break-ins were reported in Saskatchewan (-18%) and Alberta (-14%). Despite this drop, Saskatchewan continues to report the highest rate of break-ins (Figure 8).

There were about 160,000 auto thefts reported to police in 2006. Unlike many crimes which peaked in the early 1990s, motor vehicle thefts continued to climb in Canada until 1996. While the decline in vehicle thefts over the past decade has not been as large as for break-ins, the motor vehicle theft rate has dropped by 20%, including a 2% decline in 2006 (Figure 7).

Figure 8

Break-in rate by province, 2006

rate per 100,000 population

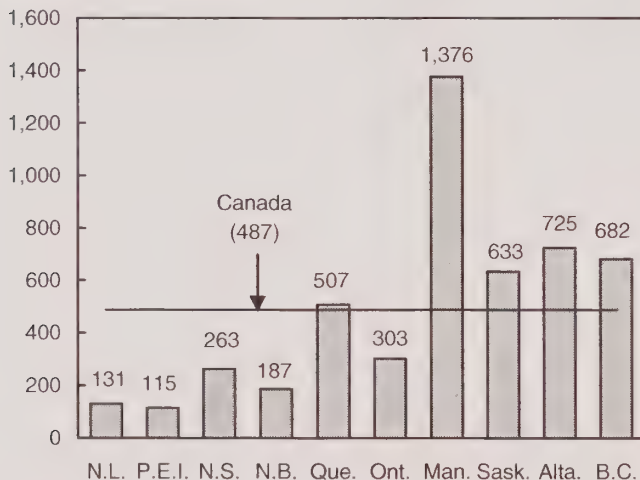


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Figure 9

Motor vehicle theft rate by province, 2006

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The picture for motor vehicle theft varied considerably across the country. Large increases were reported in Manitoba (+14%) and Alberta (+13%), while large decreases were recorded in Prince Edward Island (-28%) and British Columbia (-16%). The drop in British Columbia has been attributed to a combination

of factors, including a higher priority being placed on auto thefts through a specialized, integrated police enforcement team (IMPACT), targeting chronic offenders, increased use of anti-theft devices, improved court sentencing and the success of the "bait car" program.⁶ Bait Car is an enforcement initiative aimed at reducing auto crime using police-owned decoy vehicles that, if stolen, are monitored through surveillance and GPS tracking, allowing police to observe, follow and apprehend the suspect safely.

Manitoba's vehicle theft rate continued to be well above the rest of Canada; its 2006 rate was almost double that of Alberta, the next highest province (Figure 9).

Youth crime increases for the first time since 2003

The youth (aged 12 to 17) crime rate in this report includes youths formally charged or recommended to the Crown for charging by police as well as youths cleared by means other than the laying of a charge. The youth crime rate increased 3% in 2006, the first increase since 2003. Youth violent crime rose 3%, while property crime dropped 3% and "other" *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief and disturbing the peace were up 9%.

One of the key principles behind the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), introduced in 2003, is to divert youths who have committed non-violent and minor crimes away from the formal criminal justice system by encouraging the use of extrajudicial (non-court) measures. These measures include taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions programs.

Since the introduction of the YCJA, the proportion of apprehended youths formally charged by police has dropped from 56% in 2002 (pre-YCJA) to 42% in 2006. However, for serious violent crimes (excluding minor assaults), almost three-quarters of youths were formally charged by police in 2006.

About 74,000 youths were charged with a criminal offence in 2006, and a further 104,000 were cleared by means other than the laying of a charge. The rate of youths formally charged by police dropped by 1%, while the rate of youths cleared by means other than the laying of a charge rose 6% (Figure 10). Therefore, although more youths came into contact with the police in 2006, fewer were formally charged.

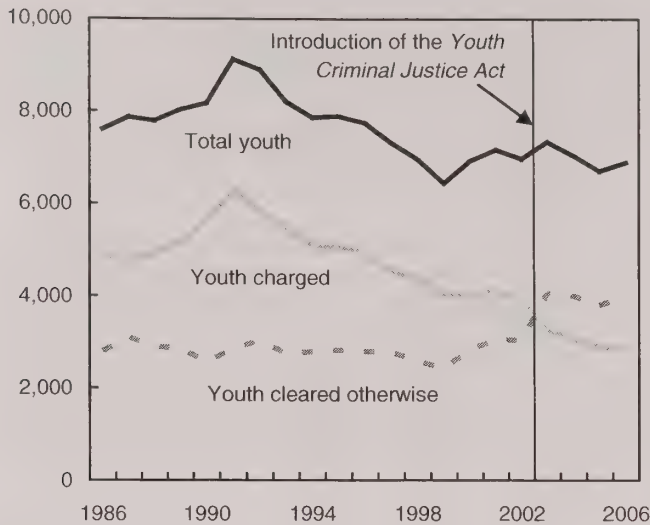
For violent crimes, youth rates (including youths formally charged or recommended to the Crown for charging as well as youths cleared by means other than the laying of a charge) increased for homicide, assault and robbery, and decreased for sexual assault. The 2006 rate of youth accused of homicide was the highest since 1961, when data were first collected. In 2006, 84 youths (aged 12 to 17) were accused of homicide, involving 54 different victims.⁷ It should be noted that these are relatively small numbers and, as such, are prone to large annual fluctuations. For property crimes, youth rates declined for both break-ins and motor vehicle thefts.

All provinces except Quebec (-4%) reported increases in their youth crime rate. The largest jumps were in Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

Figure 10

Youth crime rate, Canada, 1986 to 2006

rate per 100,000 population

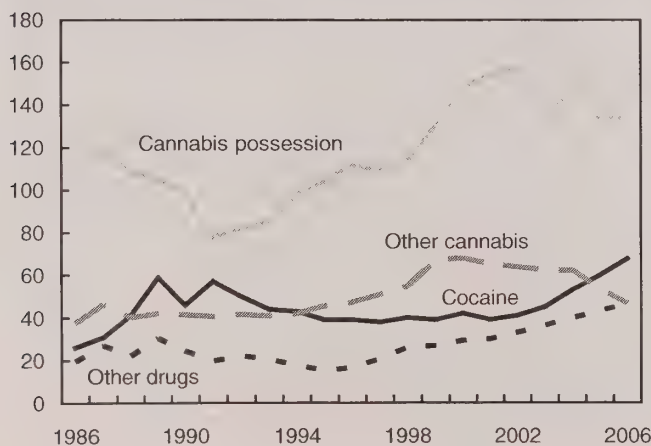


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Figure 11

Drugs offences, Canada, 1986 to 2006

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Recent large fluctuations in counterfeiting

Given the high volume of counterfeiting incidents and their tendency to be quite volatile, any large change in the volume of these incidents will have a pronounced effect on overall crime. This was the case in 2006, as there were almost 50,000 fewer incidents of counterfeiting, accounting for a large percentage of the total drop in *Criminal Code* incidents.

The decrease in counterfeiting may be attributed to the increased awareness of merchants and retailers in detecting counterfeit bills, to law enforcement in the prevention and reaction to counterfeit operations, and to the Bank of Canada in making the replication of bills more difficult though enhanced security features.

The rate of counterfeiting incidents decreased 29% in 2006 and 19% in 2005, after having increased five-fold between 2001 and 2004. The RCMP reported that the total value of counterfeit bills passed in 2006 was about \$6.7 million.⁸ The majority (60%) of counterfeit bills passed were \$20 bills; \$10 bills accounted for a further 22%.⁹

Cocaine incidents on the increase

Total drug offences increased slightly (+2%) in 2006. Cannabis offences dropped 4%, cocaine offences increased by 13% and other drug offences, which include crystal meth, rose 8%.

Although cannabis offences have declined slightly in recent years, they still account for about 60% of all drug offences. In 2006, possession of cannabis accounted for about three-quarters of all cannabis offences.

The rate of cannabis possession remained stable in 2006 (Figure 11), while drops were reported for cannabis trafficking, production and importation.

According to a 2006 report on the state of drug enforcement in Canada, an average of 1.1 million marijuana plants were seized annually over the past five years, a six-fold increase from 1993.¹⁰

In the wake of the small declines in cannabis offences in recent years, cocaine offences have increased 67% since 2002 and "other" drugs (such as crystal meth) have been increasing since the mid-1990s. In a report discussing the drug culture in Ontario it is indicated that methamphetamine labs, which produce crystal meth, have increased significantly throughout the province.¹¹

Factors influencing police-reported crime rates

Previous research has suggested that many factors are correlated to higher levels of crime at particular points in time or for specific regions. A recent Statistics Canada study found links between various socio-economic factors and crime types (Pottie Bunge, et. al, 2005).¹² For example, trends in financially-motivated crimes such as robbery, break-ins and motor vehicle thefts were positively correlated with shifts in inflation rates.

Break-ins were also influenced by shifts in the population of persons aged 15 to 24 years, the most criminally active age group. Further, changes in unemployment rates and alcohol consumption were associated with shifts in the prevalence of homicides.

A recent series of Statistics Canada geo-coding studies of police-reported data in Winnipeg, Montréal and Regina found that, while factors related to neighborhood crime rates differ by city, the one finding in common was that higher levels of crime occur in neighborhoods with lower levels of income.¹³

Shifts in the criminal justice system and societal responses to certain acts can have an equally important impact on the number of police-reported criminal incidents. The introduction of a new offence or a modification to an existing offence can impact the number of criminal incidents. Changes in enforcement practices or special targeted operations will impact the prevalence rates for certain offences such as drug crimes, prostitution and impaired driving.

In addition, differences in the reporting structures of police services can influence the number of incidents recorded by police. Some police services maintain call centres to receive and record criminal incidents, while others require victims to report crimes in person. The ease of public reporting can consequently impact whether a relatively minor criminal incident is collected by the police and subsequently forwarded to Statistics Canada's UCR survey.

On the societal side, a change in the public's level of tolerance for certain criminal acts, such as spousal assault, can lead to a change in reporting rates to police and subsequent crime statistics for that particular offence. Similarly, changes in the victim's desire to involve police can also influence police-reported statistics. All of these factors can have an impact on crime and how it is reported by police, thereby influencing police reported crime rates.

Key terminology, definitions and overview of survey

Criminal incident: One incident can include more than one offence. For incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted. In categorizing offences according to seriousness, generally the *Criminal Code* maximum penalties are used, excepting that violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences.

Except for robbery, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts (and robberies) reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime.

Crime rate: Crime rates are based on the number of incidents reported to police per 100,000 population. Rates are used to make comparisons over time and among geographic areas with different populations. The "crime rate" represents total *Criminal Code* incidents, excluding traffic incidents. It does not include other federal statutes such as drug offences.

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey: The UCR survey was developed in 1962 with the cooperation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. UCR survey data reflects reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation from all separate federal, provincial and municipal police services in Canada. Survey coverage in 2006 was at 99.9% of the national caseload.

There are currently two versions of the UCR survey: aggregate and incident-based microdata. All the data presented in this report are aggregate counts. More detailed data from the incident-based UCR2 survey is released in conjunction with the homicide microdata release in the fall. For more detailed information on the UCR and UCR2 surveys, please refer to <http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3302&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2>.

Endnotes

1. Statistics Canada. 2004. *General Social Survey*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-568-XIE.
2. Kidnapping/forcible confinement is coded under the general category "Other *Criminal Code*" offences.
3. Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Incident Based Survey (UCR2), research file.
4. Edmonton Police Services, <http://www.police.edmonton.ab.ca/Pages/NET/index.asp> (accessed May 18, 2007).
5. Statistics Canada. 2004. *General Social Survey*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-568-XIE.
6. www.baitcar.com (October 2, 2006 police press release).
7. Note: the total of 85 youth accused in table 5 includes 1 accused under the age of 12.
8. RCMP Frauds and Scams – Currency Counterfeiting Statistics, http://rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams/counter_e.htm (accessed 10/04/2007).
9. *ibid.*
10. Canadian Police Research Centre 2005/2006.
11. Ontario Provincial Police. 2005. Provincial Business Plan. Drug Enforcement/Traffic. http://www.opp.ca/Intranetdev/groups/public/documents/webpage/opp_000690.pdf (accessed April 12, 2007).
12. Pottie Bunge, V., H. Johnson, T.A. Baldé. 2005. *Exploring Crime Trends in Canada*. Catalogue 85-561, no. 5. Statistics Canada.
13. Refer to the following catalogue numbers for geocoding studies: Winnipeg: Catalogue no. 85-561-MIE — No. 004, Montreal: Catalogue no. 85-561-MIE — No. 007, and Regina: Catalogue no. 85-561-MIE — No. 008.

Table 1

Federal statute incidents reported to police, by most serious offence, Canada, 2002 to 2006¹

	2002		2003		2004		2005 ¹		2006		Percent change 2005 to 2006	Percent change 1996 to 2006
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	rate	rate
Population	31,372,587		31,676,077		31,989,454		32,299,496		32,623,490			
Homicide ²	582	1.9	549	1.7	624	2.0	663	2.1	605	1.9	-10	-14
Attempted murder	678	2.2	707	2.2	671	2.1	822	2.5	852	2.6	3	-12
Assault - total	235,710	751	236,802	748	234,259	732	236,682	733	239,702	735	0	-1
Level 1	189,185	603	188,667	596	184,883	578	183,231	567	183,504	562	-1	-8
Level 2-weapon	43,793	140	45,222	143	46,643	146	50,356	156	52,910	162	4	35
Level 3-aggravated	2,732	9	2,913	9	2,733	9	3,095	10	3,288	10	5	9
Other assaults	12,454	40	12,534	40	12,811	40	12,845	40	12,981	40	0	-3
Sexual assault - total	24,499	78	23,514	74	23,036	72	23,521	73	22,136	68	-7	-26
Level 1	23,973	76	22,983	73	22,449	70	22,956	71	21,572	66	-7	-25
Level 2-weapon	373	1	359	1	397	1	389	1	381	1	-3	-47
Level 3-aggravated	153	0	172	1	190	1	176	1	183	1	3	-44
Other sexual offences	2,756	9	2,565	8	2,614	8	2,777	9	2,789	9	-1	-24
Abduction	605	2	559	2	637	2	579	2	535	2	-9	-50
Robbery - total	26,662	85	28,437	90	27,495	86	28,798	89	30,707	94	6	-12
Firearms	3,483	11	3,856	12	3,645	11	3,508	11	3,671	11	4	-51
Other weapons	10,104	32	10,057	32	8,362	26	8,566	27	8,775	27	1	-24
No weapons	13,075	42	14,524	46	15,488	48	16,724	52	18,261	56	8	14
Violent crime - total	303,946	969	305,667	965	302,147	945	306,687	950	310,307	951	0	-5
Breaking and entering - total	275,573	878	284,925	899	275,869	862	261,362	809	250,467	768	-5	-43
Residential	163,156	520	161,494	510	153,223	479	150,500	466	147,002	451	-3	-45
Business	81,162	259	86,842	274	86,226	270	80,317	249	79,042	242	-3	-35
Other	31,255	100	36,589	116	36,420	114	30,545	95	24,423	75	-21	-50
Motor vehicle theft	161,912	516	174,208	550	169,977	531	160,014	495	158,944	487	-2	-20
Theft over \$5,000	19,816	63	19,416	61	16,968	53	17,201	53	17,060	52	-2	-43
Theft \$5,000 and under	667,312	2,127	700,605	2,212	673,999	2,107	638,684	1,977	616,194	1,889	-4	-32
Possession of stolen goods	30,056	96	33,151	105	35,743	112	34,466	107	35,134	108	1	0
Fraud	91,812	293	92,924	293	97,443	305	95,377	295	92,599	284	-4	-18
Property crime - total	1,246,481	3,973	1,305,229	4,121	1,269,999	3,970	1,207,104	3,737	1,170,398	3,588	-4	-32
Mischief	333,334	1,063	357,568	1,129	353,518	1,105	354,651	1,098	378,311	1,160	6	-6
Counterfeiting currency	79,970	255	139,267	440	201,108	629	165,014	511	117,987	362	-29	426
Bail violations	96,206	307	101,095	319	106,664	333	101,773	315	106,699	327	4	40
Disturbing the peace ³	89,354	285	102,909	325	117,389	367	122,095	378	117,023	359	-5	95
Offensive weapons	15,930	51	17,621	56	18,202	57	19,907	62	19,234	59	-4	6
Prostitution	5,770	18	5,688	18	6,452	20	5,787	18	5,701	17	-2	-19
Arson	13,131	42	13,875	44	13,150	41	13,356	41	13,504	41	0	-4
Kidnapping/forcible confinement	3,095	10	3,250	10	3,483	11	3,918	12	4,449	14	12	108
Other	230,227	734	227,003	717	218,859	684	210,169	651	209,174	641	-1	-21
Other Criminal Code offences - total	867,017	2,764	968,276	3,057	1,038,825	3,247	996,670	3,086	972,082	2,980	-3	12
Criminal Code - total (excluding traffic) - crime rate	2,417,444	7,706	2,579,172	8,142	2,610,971	8,162	2,510,461	7,772	2,452,787	7,518	-3	-16
Impaired driving ⁴	80,045	255	77,645	245	80,339	251	78,370	243	74,331	228	-6	-30
Fail to stop/remain	22,040	70	23,336	74	24,022	75	26,974	84	29,078	89	7	-47
Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle/boat/aircraft	9,194	29	9,795	31	9,887	31	10,286	32	10,197	31	-2	39
Driving motor vehicle while prohibited	6,292	20	6,389	20	5,882	18	5,958	18	6,357	19	6	-40
Criminal Code traffic - total	117,571	375	117,119	370	120,637	377	121,588	376	119,963	368	-2	-33
Criminal Code - total (incl. traffic)	2,535,015	8,080	2,696,291	8,512	2,731,608	8,539	2,632,049	8,149	2,572,750	7,886	-3	-17
Drugs	92,781	296	86,791	274	97,630	305	93,664	290	96,164	295	2	33
Cannabis possession	49,647	158	41,295	130	47,957	150	43,208	134	43,634	134	0	19
Other cannabis ⁵	20,040	64	19,792	62	19,938	62	17,284	54	15,244	47	-13	-1
Cocaine	12,737	41	14,225	45	16,974	53	19,270	60	22,074	68	13	75
Other drugs ⁶	10,357	41	11,479	36	12,761	40	13,902	43	15,212	47	8	97
Other federal statutes	40,122	128	36,264	114	34,017	106	31,167	96	28,733	88	-9	-24
Total federal statutes (incl. C.C.)	2,667,918	8,504	2,819,346	8,901	2,863,255	8,951	2,756,880	8,535	2,697,647	8,269	-3	-16

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

¹ revised

1. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. there were 15 homicides in 2002, 7 homicides in 2003 and 5 homicides in 2004 that occurred in previous years. Homicide are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Note that for minor offences such as disturb the peace, some police services choose to clear these offences under a municipal by-law or provincial statute offence rather than under the *Criminal Code*.

4. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample. Previous to 2004, Vancouver Police only reported incidents of impaired driving when a charge had been laid. As of 2004, their data also include incidents where the driver was tested to be over .08 and received a road-side suspension. This resulted in 1,900 more impaired driving incidents being reported in 2004 than 2003.

5. Other Cannabis includes trafficking, importation, and production.

6. Other drugs include the categories: heroin, "restricted drugs", "controlled drugs" and "other" drugs.

Notes: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final post-censal estimates for 2002 and 2003; updated postcensal estimates for 2004 and 2005; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2

Rates of *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada, 1962 to 2006¹

	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences ²		Violent crime		Property crime		Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	
	rate	percent change	rate	percent change	rate	percent change	rate	percent change
1962	2,771	...	221	...	1,891	...	659	...
1963	3,022	9.0	249	13.0	2,047	8.2	726	10.1
1964	3,245	7.4	284	13.8	2,146	4.9	815	12.3
1965	3,199	-1.4	299	5.4	2,091	-2.6	809	-0.7
1966	3,511	9.8	347	15.9	2,258	8.0	907	12.0
1967	3,850	9.6	381	9.9	2,484	10.0	985	8.7
1968	4,336	12.6	423	11.0	2,826	13.8	1,087	10.3
1969	4,737	9.3	453	7.1	3,120	10.4	1,164	7.1
1970	5,212	10.0	481	6.2	3,515	12.6	1,217	4.6
1971	5,311	1.9	492	2.4	3,649	3.8	1,170	-3.9
1972	5,355	0.8	497	1.0	3,634	-0.4	1,224	4.6
1973	5,773	7.8	524	5.3	3,704	1.9	1,546	26.3
1974	6,388	10.6	553	5.6	4,151	12.1	1,684	8.9
1975	6,852	7.3	585	5.9	4,498	8.4	1,769	5.0
1976	6,984	1.9	584	-0.2	4,533	0.8	1,867	5.6
1977	6,971	-0.2	572	-2.0	4,466	-1.5	1,933	3.5
1978	7,154	2.6	580	1.4	4,579	2.5	1,995	3.2
1979	7,666	7.2	610	5.1	4,903	7.1	2,153	7.9
1980	8,343	8.8	636	4.3	5,444	11.0	2,263	5.1
1981	8,736	4.7	654	2.8	5,759	5.8	2,322	2.6
1982	8,773	0.4	671	2.7	5,840	1.4	2,262	-2.6
1983	8,470	-3.5	679	1.2	5,608	-4.0	2,182	-3.5
1984	8,387	-1.0	701	3.1	5,501	-1.9	2,185	0.1
1985	8,413	0.3	735	4.8	5,451	-0.9	2,227	1.9
1986	8,727	3.7	785	6.9	5,550	1.8	2,392	7.4
1987	8,957	2.6	829	5.7	5,553	0.1	2,575	7.6
1988	8,919	-0.4	868	4.7	5,439	-2.0	2,613	1.5
1989	8,892	-0.3	911	5.0	5,289	-2.7	2,692	3.0
1990	9,485	6.7	973	6.8	5,612	6.1	2,900	7.8
1991	10,342	9.0	1,059	8.9	6,160	9.8	3,122	7.7
1992	10,040	-2.9	1,084	2.3	5,904	-4.2	3,052	-2.3
1993	9,538	-5.0	1,082	-0.2	5,575	-5.6	2,881	-5.6
1994	9,125	-4.3	1,047	-3.2	5,257	-5.7	2,821	-2.1
1995	9,008	-1.3	1,009	-3.7	5,292	0.7	2,707	-4.0
1996	8,932	-0.8	1,002	-0.7	5,274	-0.3	2,656	-1.9
1997	8,475	-5.1	993	-0.9	4,880	-7.5	2,603	-2.0
1998	8,161	-3.7	982	-1.1	4,569	-6.4	2,610	0.3
1999	7,752	-5.0	958	-2.4	4,276	-6.4	2,518	-3.5
2000	7,666	-1.1	984	2.7	4,081	-4.6	2,601	3.3
2001	7,655	-0.1	984	-0.1	4,004	-1.9	2,668	2.6
2002	7,706	0.7	969	-1.5	3,973	-0.8	2,764	3.6
2003	8,142	5.7	965	-0.4	4,121	3.7	3,057	10.6
2004	8,162	0.2	945	-2.1	3,970	-3.7	3,247	6.2
2005 ^r	7,772	-4.8	950	0.5	3,737	-5.9	3,086	-5.0
2006	7,518	-3.3	951	0.2	3,588	-4.0	2,980	-3.4

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 2002 and 2003; updated postcensal estimates for 2004 and 2005; and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2006.

Percent change based on unrounded rates and are in comparison to the previous year's rate.

2. Excluding traffic offences.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3

Selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2006¹

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
2006 Population	509,677	138,519	934,405	749,168	7,651,531	12,686,952	1,177,765	985,386	3,375,763	4,310,452	31,229	41,861	30,782	32,623,490
Homicide														
number	7	1	16	7	93	196	39	40	96	108	0	0	2	605
rate	1.4	0.7	1.7	0.9	1.2	1.5	3.3	4.1	2.8	2.5	0.0	0.0	6.5	1.9
percent change in rate	-36	...	-20	-22	-8	-11	-21	-7	-14	6	-100	...	-2	-10
Assault (level 1, 2, 3)														
number	3,740	865	8,585	5,289	41,348	71,468	14,640	16,461	29,981	42,240	829	2,442	1,814	239,702
rate	734	624	919	706	540	563	1,243	1,671	888	980	2,655	5,834	5,893	735
percent change in rate	-1	-5	-3	0	3	0	-2	1	-0	0	-6	4	-5	0
Sexual assault (level 1, 2, 3)														
number	342	66	804	499	5,109	7,051	1,273	1,229	2,144	3,218	61	156	184	22,136
rate	67	48	86	67	67	56	108	125	64	75	195	373	598	68
percent change in rate	-21	-28	1	-8	4	-12	-5	-7	-10	-5	-4	-19	-36	-7
Robbery - total														
number	119	24	790	221	6,989	10,987	2,148	1,474	3,154	4,756	18	15	12	30,707
rate	23	17	85	29	91	87	182	150	93	110	58	36	39	94
percent change in rate	-21	33	13	-14	3	9	7	18	2	1	-0	-27	67	6
Violent crime - total ²														
number	4,336	989	10,604	6,359	57,834	95,881	18,815	20,090	37,166	52,513	939	2,699	2,082	310,307
rate	851	714	1,135	849	756	756	1,598	2,039	1,101	1,218	3,007	6,448	6,764	951
percent change in rate	-4	-8	-2	-2	2	0	-1	2	-1	0	-6	1	-9	0
Breaking and entering - total														
number	3,754	744	6,865	4,486	66,329	68,668	12,650	12,098	25,922	46,912	458	976	605	250,467
rate	737	537	735	599	867	541	1,074	1,228	768	1,088	1,467	2,332	1,965	768
percent change in rate	-11	-12	-6	-8	1	-2	-5	-18	-14	-6	-11	-9	-33	-5
Motor vehicle theft - total														
number	666	159	2,460	1,400	38,821	38,398	16,202	6,240	24,476	29,404	139	388	191	158,944
rate	131	115	263	187	507	303	1,376	633	725	682	445	927	620	487
percent change in rate	-13	-28	-6	-2	0	-5	14	3	13	-16	-5	33	-3	-2
Other theft														
number	6,455	2,816	18,540	11,116	111,956	199,743	25,914	23,986	82,672	147,615	887	1,138	416	633,254
rate	1,266	2,033	1,984	1,484	1,463	1,574	2,200	2,434	2,449	3,425	2,840	2,719	1,351	1,941
percent change in rate	-5	-9	-0	1	-2	1	-7	-14	-10	-8	-22	-9	-25	-4
Property crime - total ²														
number	12,043	4,155	32,837	19,195	238,255	356,675	58,314	47,060	151,235	245,063	1,595	2,661	1,310	1,170,398
rate	2,363	3,000	3,514	2,562	3,114	2,811	4,951	4,776	4,480	5,685	5,107	6,357	4,256	3,588
percent change in rate	-8	-10	-2	-3	-1	-0	-1	-13	-8	-9	-17	-7	-25	-4
Counterfeiting currency														
number	195	84	390	470	42,915	48,946	496	648	4,655	19,138	28	22	0	117,987
rate	38	61	42	63	561	386	42	66	138	444	90	53	...	362
percent change in rate	44	-6	-63	-17	-30	-35	-26	-44	-29	-6	40	-57	...	-29
Mischief														
number	7,955	2,185	14,936	8,849	47,096	101,255	32,755	31,615	59,553	61,913	1,710	5,547	2,942	378,311
rate	1,561	1,577	1,598	1,181	616	798	2,781	3,208	1,764	1,436	5,476	13,251	9,558	1,160
percent change in rate	21	-4	4	1	4	14	1	5	5	-1	-4	4	4	6
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences - total²														
number	14,481	4,265	31,952	20,224	156,041	269,226	60,416	67,954	133,085	192,310	3,897	11,999	6,232	972,082
rate	2,841	3,079	3,420	2,700	2,039	2,122	5,130	6,896	3,942	4,461	12,479	28,664	20,246	2,980
percent change in rate	5	-13	-1	-8	-7	-5	-2	3	-4	-1	-7	-5	-8	-3
<i>Criminal Code</i> - total (excluding traffic) - crime rate														
number	30,860	9,409	75,393	45,778	452,130	721,782	137,545	135,104	321,486	489,886	6,431	17,359	9,624	2,452,787
rate	6,055	6,793	8,069	6,111	5,909	5,689	11,678	13,711	9,523	11,365	20,593	41,468	31,265	7,518
percent change in rate	-2	-11	-2	-5	-3	-2	-1	-4	-6	-5	-9	-5	-11	-3

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st. Preliminary postcensal estimates for 2006.

2. Only selected offences are shown and will therefore not add up to the total in each category.

Note: Percent change based on unrounded rates and are in comparison to the previous year's rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3a

Selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2006¹

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.	Canada
Cannabis possession														
number	316	66	961	839	9,254	14,104	718	1,517	3,651	11,918	70	152	68	43,634
rate	62	48	103	112	121	111	61	154	108	276	224	363	221	134
percent change in rate	-15	-23	-5	3	2	3	2	6	-3	-4	59	-28	1	-0
Other cannabis ²														
number	164	45	480	495	5,091	3,732	522	368	878	3,252	33	60	124	15,244
rate	32	32	51	66	67	29	44	37	26	75	106	143	403	47
percent change in rate	-43	-10	-17	-7	1	-15	15	-39	-23	-20	73	-41	-32	-13
Cocaine														
number	89	22	293	202	2,340	7,354	585	460	3,150	7,464	27	84	4	22,074
rate	17	16	31	27	31	58	50	47	93	173	86	201	13	68
percent change in rate	-8	-33	48	12	6	17	60	-5	12	13	28	-45	-57	13
Other drugs ³														
number	85	43	306	321	3,656	5,074	328	367	1,028	3,951	16	26	11	15,212
rate	17	31	33	43	48	40	28	37	30	92	51	62	36	47
percent change in rate	-18	38	21	-2	20	4	-28	-41	-7	27	-6	-28	-33	8
Drugs - total														
number	654	176	2,040	1,857	20,341	30,264	2,153	2,712	8,707	26,585	146	322	207	96,164
rate	128	127	218	248	266	239	183	275	258	617	468	769	672	295
percent change in rate	-24	-12	0	0	5	3	9	-14	-1	1	44	-36	-25	2
Impaired operation ⁴														
number	1,125	548	2,379	1,810	16,398	17,642	2,506	4,669	11,698	14,637	219	489	211	74,331
rate	221	396	255	242	214	139	213	474	347	340	701	1,168	685	228
percent change in rate	17	-0	-15	-25	-1	-2	-11	-20	-10	-1	-33	-35	11	-6

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st. Preliminary postcensal estimates for 2006.

2. Other Cannabis includes trafficking, importation, and production.

3. Other drugs include the categories heroin, "restricted drugs", "controlled drugs", and "other" drugs.

4. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

Note: Percent change based on unrounded rates and are in comparison to the previous year's rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4

Crime rates for selected *Criminal Code* incidents, for census metropolitan areas (CMA),¹ Canada, 2006

	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic)	percentage change in rate 2005 to 2006*	Total violent offences	Homicide	Robbery	Total property offences	Breaking and entering	Motor vehicle theft	Total other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences
	rate		rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate	rate
CMAs with over 500,000 population									
Winnipeg	11,085	-1.1	1,256	3.0	272	5,913	1,065	1,932	3,916
Vancouver	10,609	-5.5	1,089	2.5	153	5,874	1,121	745	3,647
Edmonton	10,079	-6.0	893	3.7	141	5,621	853	1,076	3,565
Montréal	6,912	-5.8	818	1.4	150	3,642	902	646	2,451
Calgary	6,708	-2.0	802	2.3	107	4,027	685	611	1,879
Ottawa ²	5,775	-0.7	601	1.8	92	3,122	550	327	2,052
Hamilton	5,602	-1.8	754	1.0	108	3,080	662	503	1,768
Toronto	5,020	-5.9	738	1.8	116	2,471	404	294	1,811
Québec	4,931	5.7	640	1.0	62	2,810	734	277	1,481
CMAs with under 500,000 population									
Regina	12,415	-7.5	1,546	4.5	264	6,315	1,487	1,008	4,554
Saskatoon	12,209	-8.8	1,606	3.3	268	5,247	1,167	582	5,356
Abbotsford	11,224	-8.0	1,006	1.8	92	6,114	1,169	1,155	4,104
Victoria	10,066	1.4	904	1.2	75	5,630	908	380	3,532
Thunder Bay	9,031	0.8	1,308	1.6	112	3,984	871	294	3,738
Halifax	8,715	-5.2	1,261	1.6	169	4,454	768	368	3,000
London	8,137	8.8	755	1.1	88	4,347	797	641	3,034
Saint John	7,885	4.7	1,313	1.0	82	3,449	639	163	3,123
St. John's	6,773	3.5	777	0.6	53	3,828	1,014	229	2,168
Windsor	6,754	2.3	658	1.5	70	3,609	743	291	2,486
Kingston	6,737	0.8	712	1.3	37	3,446	589	190	2,578
Sudbury	6,219	8.2	908	1.2	74	3,137	800	326	2,174
St. Catharines-Niagara	5,963	-1.1	615	0.9	86	3,333	777	309	2,016
Gatineau ³	5,645	1.7	885	3.1	68	2,866	793	293	1,893
Sherbrooke	5,491	4.7	630	0.7	69	2,895	810	451	1,966
Kitchener	5,315	-4.0	628	0.4	75	2,850	567	290	1,837
Trois-Rivières	4,792	0.3	618	0.0	43	2,631	758	378	1,543
Saguenay	4,038	7.8	613	0.0	19	1,975	496	286	1,450

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

1. Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police force and that populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. Also note that the Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

2. Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5

Youths accused of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada, 2006¹

	2005 ^r				2006				Percent change in rate 2005 to 2006
	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ²	Total number	Total rate ³	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ²	Total number	Total rate ³	
Population (aged 12 to 17)	2,569,398				2,583,351				
Homicide ⁴	72	0	72	2.8	83	2	85	3.3	17
Attempted murder	68	10	78	3.0	69	5	74	2.9	-6
Assault - total	14,178	15,612	29,790	1,159	14,160	16,745	30,905	1,196	3
Level 1	8,880	13,378	22,258	866	8,964	14,184	23,148	896	3
Level 2-weapon	4,860	2,193	7,053	275	4,779	2,517	7,296	282	3
Level 3-aggravated	438	41	479	19	417	44	461	18	-4
Other assaults	1,224	287	1,511	59	1,152	271	1,423	55	-6
Sexual assault - total	1,274	999	2,273	88	1,188	963	2,151	83	-6
Level 1	1,239	991	2,230	87	1,166	944	2,110	82	-6
Level 2-weapon	27	8	35	1	20	13	33	1	-6
Level 3-aggravated	8	0	8	0	2	6	8	0	-1
Other sexual offences	141	152	293	11	139	164	303	12	3
Abduction	3	8	11	0	5	5	10	0	-10
Robbery - total	3,380	771	4,151	162	3,704	817	4,521	175	8
Firearms	284	49	333	13	313	47	360	14	8
Other weapons	961	134	1,095	43	1,057	144	1,201	46	9
No weapons	2,135	588	2,723	106	2,334	626	2,960	115	8
Violent crime - total	20,340	17,839	38,179	1,486	20,500	18,972	39,472	1,528	3
Breaking and entering - total	8,367	5,742	14,109	549	7,434	5,399	12,833	497	-10
Residential	4,949	3,337	8,286	322	4,389	3,172	7,561	293	-9
Business	2,805	1,881	4,686	182	2,689	1,907	4,596	178	-2
Other	613	524	1,137	44	356	320	676	26	-41
Motor vehicle theft	3,315	1,945	5,260	205	3,012	2,100	5,112	198	-3
Theft over \$5,000	228	196	424	17	152	163	315	12	-26
Theft \$5,000 and under	9,610	28,026	37,636	1,465	9,164	27,805	36,969	1,431	-2
Possession of stolen goods	4,582	2,622	7,204	280	4,899	2,912	7,811	302	8
Fraud	1,128	1,337	2,465	96	1,119	1,302	2,421	94	-2
Property crime - total	27,230	39,868	67,098	2,611	25,780	39,681	65,461	2,534	-3
Mischief	5,556	18,535	24,091	938	5,681	21,374	27,055	1,047	12
Counterfeiting currency	151	176	327	13	107	145	252	10	-23
Bail violations	10,958	1,041	11,999	467	11,327	1,325	12,652	490	5
Disturbing the peace	569	7,145	7,714	300	542	8,331	8,873	343	14
Offensive weapons	1,745	1,822	3,567	139	1,787	1,831	3,618	140	1
Prostitution	40	39	79	3	22	26	48	2	-40
Arson	501	957	1,458	57	516	976	1,492	58	2
Kidnapping/forcible confinement	231	48	279	11	278	37	315	12	12
Other	7,274	9,982	17,256	672	7,401	11,226	18,627	721	7
Other Criminal Code offences - total	27,025	39,745	66,770	2,599	27,661	45,271	72,932	2,823	9
Criminal Code - total (excluding traffic)	74,595	97,452	172,047	6,696	73,941	103,924	177,865	6,885	3

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

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1. Figures presented here include a small number of accused under the age of 12.

2. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youths, this could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or diversion to a community program. Processing by other means could refer to the commitment to a mental hospital and death of accused.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2005; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2006.

4. For 2006 the total includes one accused under the age of 12.

Note: Percent change based on unrounded rates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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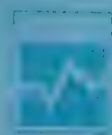
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Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 27, no. 6



Youth Self-Reported Delinquency, Toronto, 2006

by Josée Savoie

Highlights

- Over one-third (37%) of Toronto students in grades 7 to 9 reported having engaged in one or more delinquent behaviours in their lifetime, through either acts of violence, acts against property or the sale of drugs.
- Violent behaviour was twice as prevalent among boys (30%) than among girls (15%). Boys were also slightly more likely than girls to report delinquent behaviour against property (30% versus 26%).
- Toronto students reported committing approximately 115,000 delinquent acts during the 12 months preceding the survey.
- Adults were often unaware of youth delinquent behaviour. Less than half (42%) of youth who had reported committing at least one type of delinquent act in their lifetime stated that their most recent act had been discovered by parents, teachers, police or other individuals. Almost two-thirds of those whose act had been discovered indicated they had been punished.
- Delinquent behaviour was significantly more prevalent among youth who reported having consumed alcohol and drugs, and who indicated having little parental supervision.
- Over 40% of youth indicated that they had been victimized at least once during the 12-month period preceding the survey. Delinquent youth were more likely to report incidents of victimization (56%), compared with 36% of youth who had not engaged in delinquent behaviour.



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Introduction

This *Juristat* contains the first highlights of the International Youth Survey (IYS). It is the Canadian version of the International Self-Reported Delinquency Study that was conducted in over 30 countries in 2006. This survey addresses several questions and issues that are closely linked to youth delinquency and will allow for international comparisons on such issues. In Canada, the survey was conducted with the Toronto District School Board and certain private schools. More than 3,200 youth in grades 7 to 9, representing 60,900 students, participated during the spring of 2006.

The report examines the prevalence of various delinquent behaviours and analyzes acts of violence and acts against property separately. The report also examines risk factors for youth delinquency, such as alcohol and drug use, the quality of parent-youth relationships, parental supervision and delinquent friends. The prevalence of youth victimization is also examined.

Prevalence of delinquent behaviour

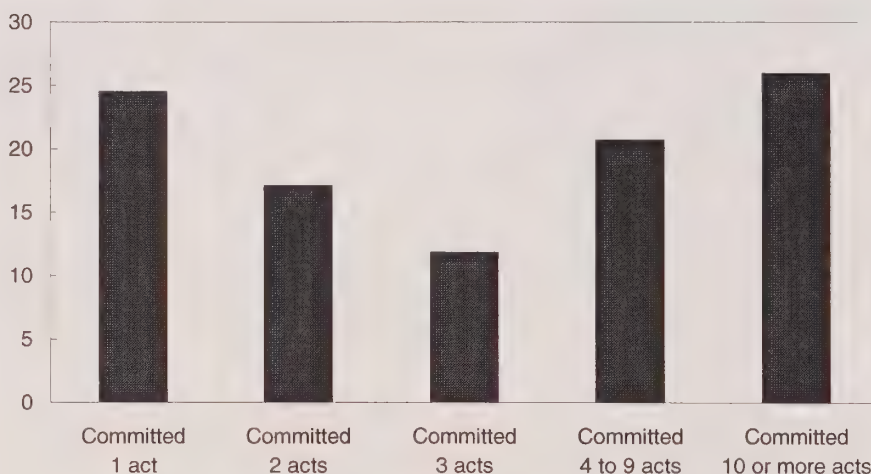
Over one-third of young persons report having engaged in at least one type of delinquent behaviour in their lifetime

According to the International Youth Survey, over one-third (37%) of students in grades 7 to 9 in Toronto reported having engaged in one or more delinquent behaviours in their lifetime, through either acts of violence, acts against property or the sale of drugs (Table 1). The lifetime prevalence was higher among boys (41%) than among girls (32%).

Figure 1

Just over half of Toronto delinquent youth committed no more than three acts in the year preceding the survey

proportion of delinquent Toronto youth



Number of acts reported by delinquent youth for the year preceding the survey

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

During the 12 months preceding the survey, 1-in-5 youth reported committing at least one delinquent act and it was found that delinquent behaviour was more prevalent among youth in higher grades. Eighth- and ninth-graders were most likely to exhibit

Text box 1 Definitions

Delinquent behaviour: Delinquency as defined in this report refers to all behaviours explicitly set out in the *Criminal Code* of Canada, whether engaged in by individuals aged 12 to 17 or by persons 18 years and older. As such, this definition does not cover statutory delinquency, such as truancy, nor does it include alcohol or drug use. This definition supports more direct comparison with other sources of data on youth delinquency, including those of other countries which took part in this survey.

Delinquency, as defined for the purposes of this analysis, comprises two major components among those targeted by the survey. The first component covers all forms of violent behaviour, delinquency involving property and selling drugs, or acting as a go-between for the sale of drugs. This first component refers essentially to a traditionally held view of delinquency. Unless otherwise noted, the term "delinquency" used throughout the report refers to this first component.

The second component covers all behaviours related to Internet criminal activity and behaviour deemed to be deviant, such as visiting pornographic Internet sites and sending pornography over the Internet. Internet delinquency is dealt with separately in this report (see Text box 2).

An analysis of internal consistency, a technique used to compare data to determine the extent of the relationship between a data element and the set of elements to which it belongs, shows that the various questions that are used to define traditional delinquency are strongly dependent. The Cronbach alpha coefficient for all 13 elements is 0.92, which indicates a very high level of internal consistency.

Violent delinquency: Violent delinquency is measured using five questions: Have you ever snatched a purse, bag or something else from a person? Have you ever carried a weapon, such as a stick, chain or knife (not a pocket knife)? Have you ever threatened somebody with a weapon or threatened to beat them up to get money or other things from them? Have you participated in a group fight on a school playground, a football stadium, in a street, or in any other public place? Have you ever intentionally beaten up someone, or hurt them with a stick or knife, so badly that they had to see a doctor? Overall, these questions show high internal consistency with a Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.86.

Delinquency involving property: Delinquency involving property is measured using the following seven questions: Have you ever damaged something on purpose, such as a bus shelter, window, car, seat on a bus or train? Have you ever stolen something from a store? Have you ever broken into a building with the purpose of stealing something? Have you ever stolen a bicycle? Have you ever stolen a motorbike or car? Have you ever stolen something out of or from a car? Have you ever set fire on purpose to a mailbox, garbage can, building, or car (not on your own property)? The Cronbach alpha coefficient for this definition of delinquency against property was also 0.86.

Drug-related delinquency: There was one question on drug-related delinquency: Have you ever sold any (soft or hard) drugs or acted as a middleman or go-between? In this report, using alcohol or (hard or soft) drugs is not therefore considered a delinquent behaviour but rather a risk factor. The consumption of alcohol and drugs is not considered a crime under the Canadian *Criminal Code*.

Internet-related delinquency: Internet-related delinquency includes behaviours defined by the *Criminal Code* as well as other deviant behaviours: Have you ever purposely gone to adult or x-rated sites on the web? Have you ever used the Internet to send pornographic pictures? Have you ever sent e-mail messages intending to harass or frighten the other person? Have you ever done any "hacking" (breaking through security into a web site or a computer account)? Have you ever downloaded music or films from the Internet? Did you think it was illegal (pirated)? The Cronbach alpha coefficient for these behaviours as a whole is 0.85. It should be noted once again that this set of questions represents a component separate from traditional delinquency.

Delinquent youth and prevalence: A delinquent youth is a young person who reported having engaged in one or more types of behaviour included in the definitions of violent, property and drug-related delinquency as defined above.

The lifetime prevalence of delinquent behaviour represents the proportion of youth who reported having engaged in one or more delinquent types of behaviour at least once in their lifetime.

The prevalence over the past 12 months represents the proportion of youth who reported having engaged in one or more delinquent types of behaviour in the 12 months preceding the survey. Prevalence over this period offers the double advantage of avoiding mnemonic deficits related to self-reporting and of nullifying the cumulative effect of lifetime prevalence among the oldest respondents.

delinquent behaviour over the previous 12 months, 22% and 24% respectively. Among seventh graders, the proportion reporting delinquent behaviour during this period was 14% (Table 2). The prevalence of delinquency among boys was highest in grade 8 at 27%, and was highest among girls in grade 9 (20%).

The approximately 11,800 youth who reported engaging in delinquent behaviours during the year prior to the survey reported just over 115,000 separate delinquent acts. The vast majority (91%) of these delinquent acts were committed by just under half of these youth – indicating that a relatively small proportion of youth were responsible for a high number of repeated delinquent acts.

Survey results revealed that few youth engaged in more than one type of delinquent behaviour in their lifetime. More than half of delinquent youth indicated that they had engaged in only one type of delinquent behaviour and a further 25% engaged in two types of delinquent behaviours in their lifetime.

Prevalence of violent delinquent behaviour

Violent delinquent behaviour among Toronto students in grades 7, 8 and 9 was slightly less prevalent than was delinquent behaviour involving property. Just under one-quarter of youth reported taking part in at least one violent incident in their lifetime (Table 1), compared to just over one-quarter who reported participating in delinquent behaviour involving property. About 3% reported that they had been involved in the sale of drugs. The proportion of boys (30%) who self-reported violent delinquent behaviour was double the proportion of girls (15%).

Of all the violent delinquent behaviours measured by the survey, youth most commonly reported participating in group fights (16%) and carrying a weapon such as a stick, chain or knife (10%) during their lifetimes. Other types of violence covered by the survey (including beating up someone or hurting them so badly that they had to see a doctor, stealing a purse or

something else from a person, and beating up someone or threatening them with a weapon in order to get something from them) were rarely reported (2%).

About 13% of youth reported engaging in a violent delinquent behaviour in the past year

About 13% of Toronto youth reported participating in violent delinquent behaviour during the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 2). Youth in grades 8 and 9 were slightly more likely to have reported being involved in a violent delinquent act in the 12 months preceding the survey than were grade 7 students.

The proportion of boys who reported engaging in violent delinquent behaviours during this period was more than twice that of girls – 18% compared to 8%. These boys were responsible for about 72% of all reported violent acts in the year prior to the survey.

Carrying a weapon such as a stick, chain or knife accounted for 6 out of 10 violent delinquent acts during the 12 months preceding the survey

Toronto youth in grades 7 to 9 indicated that they had committed more than 62,000 acts of violence in the 12-month period preceding the survey (Table 3). Two types of acts – carrying a weapon (37,000 acts) and participating in group fights (18,000 acts), accounted for 88% of all violent acts during this period. Other types of violent behaviour surveyed were much less frequent.

However, despite the fact that more incidents of carrying a weapon than participating in group fights were reported, fewer youth reported that they had carried a weapon (3,800) than reported that they had participated in a group fight (5,700) – indicating that many youth who did carry a weapon did so repeatedly. In fact, carrying a weapon was the most commonly-reported repeat offence, with 75% who had carried a weapon reporting that they had done so more than once.

The intensity, or number of times individual youths engaged in a violent delinquent behaviour in the 12 months prior to the survey, varied depending on the type of behaviour. The proportion of youth who reported engaging in a violent delinquent behaviour one time was highest for serious beatings (58%), followed by snatching a bag or purse (42%), and participating in a group fight (39%). About one quarter of youth who reported that they had threatened someone or carried a weapon did so once.

According to the number of violent delinquent acts reported, the intensity of violent delinquent behaviour exhibited by girls was greater than that of boys in cases where something was taken from another person, threats were made or a person was severely beaten. This shows that while delinquency was restricted to fewer girls, those who did engage in such acts were very active.

Few youth reported having engaged in different types of violent acts

Youth did not appear to be inclined to explore different types of violence. Among those Toronto youth in grades 7, 8 and 9 who reported delinquent acts, two-thirds reported committing only one type of violent behaviour over their lifetime. Boys were more versatile than girls in their type of violent behaviour: 72% of girls engaged in one type of violent behaviour compared to 63% of boys.

Delinquent behaviour involving property

Nearly 3 out of 10 youth reported engaging in delinquent behaviour involving property during their lifetime

As indicated earlier, the lifetime prevalence of delinquent behaviour involving property was 28% among Toronto youth in grades 7 to 9 (Table 1). Boys were slightly more likely than girls (30% versus 26%) to report such acts. The prevalence of property-related delinquent behaviour varied, with the highest proportion (22%) of youth reporting that they had ever shoplifted, followed by vandalism (9%), and setting fires (5%). Two percent reported stealing bicycles and 2% stealing something out of a car.

As was the case for violent delinquent behaviours, 13% of Toronto youth in grades 7, 8 and 9 reported committing property-related delinquent acts during the 12-month period preceding the survey. Toronto youth in grades 8 and 9 were more likely to have engaged in delinquent acts against property than those in grade 7.

The prevalence rates for property-related delinquent behaviours for boys and girls were much closer than they were for violent behaviours. At 10%, the 12 month prevalence rate for property-related delinquent behaviours among girls was two-thirds the rate for boys (15%). For violent delinquent behaviours, the prevalence rate for girls was just half the rate among boys.

The relative participation of boys and girls varied depending on the type of offence. For example, males represented over two-thirds of all youth committing acts of vandalism, but just over half of those who reported shoplifting. Stealing something from a store was the property offence with the highest female representation (45%) (Table 2).

Shoplifting accounted for more than half of all property-related delinquent acts reported by youth

Students reported committing about 47,000 delinquent acts involving property during the 12 months prior to the survey. This is much lower than the number of violent acts reported over the same period (Table 3).

Of the property-related delinquent behaviours covered by the survey, incidents of shoplifting and vandalism during the previous 12 months were most frequently reported by youth (Table 3). Grade 7, 8 and 9 students in Toronto reported committing over 25,000 acts of shoplifting, almost 12,000 acts of vandalism and over 5,400 incidents of arson. Auto theft and breaking and entering were reported less frequently by Toronto youth.

About two-thirds of youth who reported that they had shoplifted, vandalized something, or stolen a vehicle stated that they had done so more than once. Lower proportions of youth reported repeating other property-related delinquent behaviours. The intensity of delinquent behaviour involving property in the previous 12 months was higher for boys than it was for girls for almost all types of behaviours surveyed.

The majority of youth tended to engage in only one type of property-related delinquent act

As was the case with delinquent behaviours involving violence, few youth had engaged in more than one type of act against property during their lifetime. A majority, 70%, reported committing only one type of delinquent behaviour involving property. Girls (72% of whom reported involvement in only one type of property-related delinquency) were less versatile than boys (63%).

Characteristics of youth committing delinquent acts

Half the youths engaged in their first delinquent behaviour before the age of 12

Half of the delinquent youths in grades 7 to 9 indicated having engaged in their first delinquent behaviour before the age of 12, though there was some variation for certain types of behaviours. For example, youth tended to be slightly older when they participated in either drug-related delinquent behaviours or motor vehicle theft for the first time and slightly younger when they first shoplifted. There is little difference between the sexes with respect to the age at which delinquent behaviour first occurs (Table 4).

Many studies have shown that the odds of re-offending are greater for people who commit crimes at a younger age. Research conducted by Carrington, Matarazzo, and deSouza (2005), using referrals before Canadian courts, has shown that offenders who began their court career with an incident occurring at age 12 had an average of 7.9 referred incidents, whereas those whose first referred incident occurred at age 21 had an average of only 1.2 incidents.

Youth acted out in the company of their peers

In the majority of instances, youth were with other people when they participated in delinquent acts. In fact, 92% of youth who participated in arson also reported that they were with other people when they set fire to property. This proportion was 81% for youth who reported vandalizing property, and 80% for those who reported breaking and entering. Among violent delinquent behaviours, 70% reported being in the company of others when they threatened somebody, and 60% were with others when they intentionally beat someone up.

Adults were often unaware of youth delinquent behaviour

In many cases, parents, teachers, police and other individuals were unaware of youth delinquent behaviour. According to the survey, 42% of Toronto youth in grade 7, 8 or 9 who had reported at least one of delinquent act in their lifetime stated that their most recent act had been discovered by another person.

Nearly two-thirds of all youth who reported that their last delinquent behaviour was discovered also stated they were punished either by their parents, a teacher, the police or another person.

Text box 2

Prevalence of Internet-related delinquent and deviant behaviour

More than one-third of Toronto youth in grades 7, 8 or 9 engaged in delinquent or deviant behaviour while using the Internet

During the 1990s, increased access to information and communication technologies was a priority for the different levels of government in Canada. Results from the 2000 General Social Survey show that 90% of individuals aged 15 to 17 had access to a computer and an Internet connection at home. This widespread access to technology has led to initiatives to ensure the security of the children and youth who use it.

The International Youth Survey examines Internet use by youth, specifically, the inappropriate use of the Internet. Youth in grades 7 to 9 were asked the following questions: Have you ever purposely gone to adult or x-rated sites on the Internet? Have you ever used the Internet to send pornographic pictures? Have you ever sent e-mail messages intending to frighten or harass the other person? Have you ever done any hacking? Have you ever downloaded music or films from the Internet illegally?

Survey results show that Internet-related delinquency is the most common form of delinquency among youth with just over one-third of youth indicating that they had engaged in Internet-related delinquent behaviour in their lifetime. The proportion of boys (42%) who admitted to Internet-related delinquency was greater than the proportion of girls (29%).

About 14% of youth reported that they had illegally downloaded music or movies during their lifetime and about 13% indicated that they had hacked into a computer by breaking through security into a website or a computer account. Sending harassing e-mails was reported by 7% of Toronto youth.

With respect to deviant Internet behaviour, 20% of all youth reported purposely accessing adult sites, while 3% had sent pornographic pictures over the Internet.

The proportion of youth who reported engaging in one of these types of behaviour at least once during the previous 12 months was 22%. The prevalence of Internet-related delinquent behaviour was the highest for boys in grade 9 (35%), while the highest 12-month prevalence rate for girls was in grade 7 (10%).

Text box 2 – continued

Prevalence of deviant and delinquent behaviours related to the Internet

	Lifetime prevalence			Prevalence over the last 12 months		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Purposely going to adult or X-rated sites on the web						
number	8,820	3,240	12,060	7,050	1,890	8,940
percent	28	11*	20	23	7*	15
Sending pornographic pictures over the Internet						
number	1,200	320 ^E	1,530	980 ^E	F	1,170
percent	4	1 ^{E*}	3	3 ^E	F	2
Sending e-mail messages intending to harass or frighten the other person						
number	1,610	2,630	4,240	930	1,300	2,240
percent	5	9*	7	3	5*	4
Any "hacking", including breaking through security into websites or computer accounts						
number	5,080	2,800	7,880	3,530	1,390	4,920
percent	16	10*	13	11	5*	8
Downloading music or films from the Internet illegally						
number	5,140	3,220	8,360	4,860	2,980	7,840
percent	16	11*	14	16	10*	13
Total						
number	12,710	8,340	21,050	8,225	4,925	13,150
percent	42	29*	36	26	17*	22

^E use with caution (the coefficient of variation is between 16.6% and 33.3%)

^F too unreliable to be published (the coefficient of variation is higher than 33.3%)

* There is a significant difference compared to male youth (Pearson's chi square, $p < .000$).

Notes: Figures include all youth that reported a delinquent behavior; the same youth can be accounted for more than one delinquent behavior. However, totals calculate each youth only once. Figures are rounded at about 10. In addition, figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

Risk factors and youth delinquency

The following analysis looks at certain characteristics of IYS respondents and their relationship to delinquency as reported in the last 12 months. Risk factors are characteristics that are associated with a greater likelihood of youth delinquency. However, the presence of a risk factor does not necessarily mean that an individual will engage in delinquent or deviant behaviour. Furthermore, links among the factors examined and delinquency are not necessarily causal in nature. The various factors are considered separately and do not take into account the relative impact of all factors.

The socio-demographic environment of delinquent youth differed slightly from that of non-delinquent youth

The socio-demographic characteristics of young Toronto IYS respondents were quite similar to those of the overall Toronto population (see Text box 4). For example, one-third of young respondents were foreign-born, more than two-thirds had parents who were foreign-born, one-third mentioned speaking a language at home other than English, and one in five was from a lone-parent family.

The prevalence of delinquent behaviour reported by foreign-born youth was lower than it was for their Canadian-born peers: 15% versus 23%. There was no significant difference in the prevalence of delinquency between Canadian-born children

of immigrant parents (22%) and Canadian-born children whose parents were not immigrants (24%). The prevalence of delinquency was lower among youth who spoke a language other than English at home than it was among youth who did speak English at home (15% versus 23%).

Among different family types, the prevalence of delinquent behaviour was lowest among respondents who were living with both parents (18%) at the time of the survey and significantly higher among those from lone-parent families (25%) and step families (35%) (Table 5).

The majority of Toronto youth in grades 7, 8 and 9 indicated that their parents were employed. Delinquent behaviours were found to be less prevalent for youth whose parents did not have a job; 17% when the mother was not employed and 14% when the father was not employed (compared to 21% when the mother was employed and 20% when the father was employed). While these results may suggest that parental supervision may be a factor at play, more complex analysis is required to isolate this influence.

The small minority of students who did not get along with their parents reported higher levels of delinquency

A strong majority (over 95%) of Toronto youth in grades 7 to 9 reported getting along well with their parents. Delinquent behaviours were significantly more prevalent for the youths

who reported not getting along well with their parents. Over one third of youth who reported that they did not get along with their mother or their father had engaged in delinquent behaviour in the last 12 months. Among those youth who reported that they did get along well with at least one of their parents, about 20% had engaged in delinquent behaviour in the past year (Table 5).

Delinquent behaviour was relatively rare among youth who reported that their parents always knew who they were with when they went out: 12% of youth in this situation had engaged in delinquent behaviour in the past 12 months. In comparison, over half (56%) of youth who reported that their parents rarely or never knew who they were with had engaged in delinquent behaviours (Table 5).

Text box 3

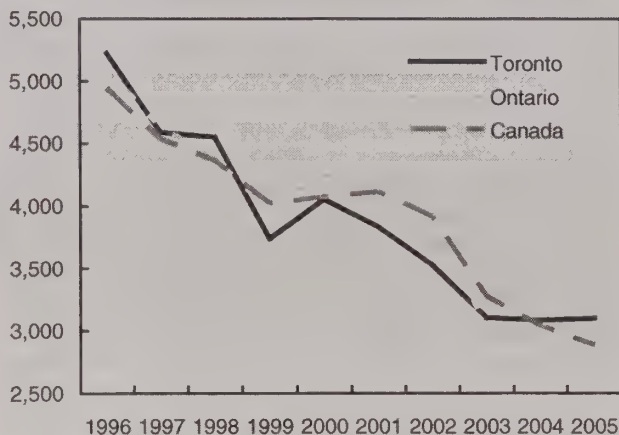
Police data and youth delinquency

Young Canadians aged 12 to 17 who come into contact with police services may be formally charged or processed through other means. In 2005, Toronto police brought charges against more than 5,600 youth for offences under the *Criminal Code*. The number of youth processed through other means was much lower (2,020). The number facing

Text box Figure 1

Rate of youth charged, as reported by police, 1996 to 2005

rate per 100,000 youth



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2006.

The rate of Toronto youth aged 12 to 17 charged declined steadily over the second half of the 1990s to reach a record low in 2004: 3,085 per 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. Police services in Ontario and Canada overall recorded a similar trend (Text box figure 1). However, this general decrease in the rate of youth charged did not apply to all offence categories under the *Criminal Code*. Overall, rates of charges against violent youth were on the rise in Toronto (1,268 per 100,000 youth in 2005). Conversely, property-related charges against youth continued to drop (970 per 100,000 youth in 2005).

The prevalence of delinquent behaviour was highest among youth who had reported drug consumption

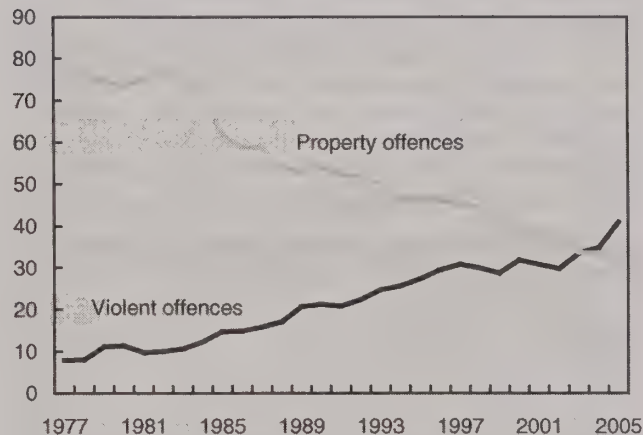
Drug and alcohol consumption appear to be among the most important risk factors in the prevalence of youth delinquency. The prevalence of delinquent behaviour during the previous twelve months among youth who reported having used drugs was 60%, compared to 16% of youths who had never consumed drugs. Among youth who reported consuming alcohol, 35% reported delinquent behaviour, compared to 9% for those who had never consumed alcohol.

alternative measures was probably underestimated since not all police services keep complete records on the youth involved. Such incidents relate to less serious types of crimes given that the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* only supports the use of alternative measures (e.g. no other action, informal warning by police, referral to community programs, formal caution by police or the Crown, or referral to an extrajudicial sanction program) in the case of non-violent or minor offences.

Text box Figure 2

Youth crime trend changing, Toronto, 1977 to 2005

percentage of all *Criminal Code* charges



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2006.

The number of violent offences as a share of overall youth crime in Toronto has clearly been on the rise since 1977, and Toronto police have reported that the number of such crimes has surpassed that of property offences for the second year in row. Since 1977 (Text box figure 2), property offences had been consistently more numerous. At the national and provincial levels, police departments have been apprehending a growing number of youth aged 12 to 17 in relation to violent incidents over the past 30 years. Policies and practices, and the public's perception and tolerance of youth misconduct may influence the rate at which offences are reported to the police.

Delinquency rates higher with the presence of delinquent friends

The majority of youth who participated in the survey stated they had a group of friends. Delinquent behaviours were more prevalent in youth who mentioned spending most of their free time with friends, in comparison to those who indicated spending most of their free time alone or with their family (Table 6). Those who had older friends, delinquent friends, or groups of friends who committed illegal acts or tolerated them also had higher rates of delinquent behaviours.

Delinquent behaviours were also more prevalent among youth who mentioned spending a large amount of time with their group of friends in public places such as a park, the street, a mall or the neighbourhood: 27%. In comparison, the delinquency rate was 11% for youth who did not spend much time in those places. Such places may be less likely to be under the supervision of parents or other adults.

Gang membership is higher among youth who engage in delinquent behaviour

Self-reporting of gang membership does not necessarily signify that the activities of the gang are illegal. The prevalence of delinquent behaviours among youths in grades 7 to 9 who reported belonging to a gang was more than double (45%) the prevalence of those who reported that their circle of friends was not a gang (20%).

Prevalence of youth victimization

Studies have shown that children and youth who have been victimized are often likely to suffer from depression and have low self-esteem. These children may show aggressive or self destructive behaviour, and are at greater risk of engaging in delinquent or deviant behaviour, whatever their relationship to the perpetrator of the violence (Health Canada, 2004; Hotton, 2003; Sprott and Cesarini, 2002).

Two out of 5 youth reported being victimized in the 12-month period preceding the survey

The IYS includes questions on youth's experience of victimization in the previous 12 months. Respondents were asked to share their experience of incidents of bullying at school, assaults requiring medical assistance, threats of extortion, and thefts of which they have been victims. Over 40% of grade 7 to 9 Toronto students reported having been victimized at least once in the 12 months preceding the survey (Table 7).

About 28% stated that they had been victims of a theft and 21% were victims of bullying at school.¹ Over 5% of young respondents reported having received threats of extortion and, more rarely, having been hit so violently that medical attention was required (3%). Over two-thirds (67%) of victimized youth stated they had been subjected to only one type of victimization while less than one-third (29%) said they had experienced only two types.

Boys were slightly more likely than girls to have been victimized

Forty-three percent of boys stated they had been victimized, while a slightly lower proportion of girls (38%) indicated the same. This was the case for all victimization types except bullying incidents, where the prevalence for girls was higher (Table 7).

Repeated victimization most common among bullying victims

Similar to how delinquency intensity is defined, in this report, victimization intensity is measured according to the number of times a young person was a victim of a specific type of incident. Victimization intensity was significantly higher for incidents of bullying. Two-thirds of all youth who were bullied were victims of such incidents more than once. The intensity of bullying varied greatly with 16% of young persons having been bullied on more than 12 occasions over the 12-month period preceding the survey.

In cases where youth had been hit so violently that they required medical attention, 60% of youth reported that one such incident had occurred. In cases of theft or attempted theft with threats, respondents said they been victimized on one occasion in about half the cases (52% and 49% respectively).

Delinquent youth were more likely to be victimized

Youth who reported that they had engaged in traditional types of delinquency at least once in the previous 12 months were more likely to report having been victimized over the same period: 56% of delinquent youth had been victimized compared to 36% of non-delinquent youth. Similar results were found for the different types of delinquency and for both boys and girls.

Reporting to police was low among victimized youth

Despite the number of youth who reported that they had been victimized, repeatedly in some instances, very few report their incidents to the police (14%). Data from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) also showed that reporting to police was low among victims between the ages of 15 and 19. Furthermore, in the majority (53%) of incidents that came to the attention of the police, it was someone other than the victim who had reported the incident, according to the GSS. The main reasons given by victims for not reporting an incident were that it was not important enough (36%) or that it was dealt with in another way (20%).

IYS data indicate that filing a police report was most common among youth who required medical attention after being hit (25%). Filing a police report was least frequent in the case of bullying events, occurring at a rate of 6%. Rates at which attempted thefts with threats and actual thefts were reported were relatively similar (18% and 14% respectively). These

1. This proportion is quite similar to the national-level results of the 2002 Health Behaviour in School-Age Children Study conducted on a sample of 11-, 13-, and 15-year-olds.

Text box 4

Growing up in Toronto, growing up in a diverse environment

Numerous studies have recognized that the urban environment, socio-economic conditions and demographic characteristics of our communities have an impact on the dynamics of risk and protection factors in relation to youth delinquency and social exclusion. The following paragraphs attempt to place the IYS survey results in context by briefly setting out a demographic and socio-economic portrait of the city of Toronto.^{1,2,3}

Toronto is Canada's largest city. According to 2001 Census data, Toronto's population was 2,480,000 which represented 8% of Canada's population. Toronto's population density was 3,939 inhabitants per square kilometre. The median age of Toronto residents was 37 years, similar to the national median age. Children and youth aged 17 and under accounted for 20% of the overall figure.

Toronto attracts more immigrants than any other Canadian city. Immigrants made up 49% of the city's population, 21% of whom came to Canada between 1991 and 2001. Similarly, visible minorities represented 43% of the city's population.

Toronto is no exception to the national trend towards income polarization that has taken place in large Canadian cities over the past 20 years. As a result, there has been a concentration of employment income along with a marginal rise in family income in the higher income neighbourhoods, while employment income has dropped and unemployment rates have risen in the lower income areas. The 2001 median income of Toronto families (\$54,399) was below that of its metropolitan region (\$63,700) and the country as a whole (\$55,016).

Research conducted by the United Way of Greater Toronto and the Canadian Council on Social Development (2004) shows a high concentration of lone-parent families in the lower income neighbourhoods. These organizations have found that 1-in-3 lone-parent families lives in these neighbourhoods. In 2001, Toronto's share of lone-parent families (19.7%) outranked those of the overall metropolitan area (16.4%) and the country as a whole (15.6%). The median income of lone-parent households (\$32,920) was half that of two-parent families (\$61,092). In 2001, the percentage of children aged 0 to 14 years living in the city core (17.5%) was comparatively lower than the figure for the overall census metropolitan area (19.6%). However, within the urban core, children were overrepresented (21.9%) in the lower income neighbourhoods.

In 2001, the share of occupants who owned their own homes was far less in the City of Toronto (about 51%) than it was in the overall metropolitan area (63%). According to the *Poverty by Postal Code* report, home affordability has dropped among renters. Indeed, 43.2% of all tenants and over 47% of those living in lower income neighbourhoods used over 30% of their disposable income for housing.

1. When this analysis was performed, the 2006 Census data were not available at this level of aggregation. Data from the 2001 Census were therefore used.
2. In this report, the city of Toronto is taken to mean the census subdivision.
3. A detailed profile of the socio-economic conditions in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area is available from Heisz, 2005.

results are consistent with those of the GSS and show that incident severity has an impact on the likelihood of reporting an incident of victimization.

Summary

Initial highlights of the International Youth Survey, Toronto, show that over their lifetimes, 37% of youth in grades 7 to 9 reported engaging in delinquent behaviour, and that more youth were involved in property-related delinquent behaviour than were involved in violent behaviour. Overall, delinquent behaviour was more prevalent in higher grade levels and higher among boys than girls. Half of the delinquent youths in grades 7 to 9 indicated having engaged in their first delinquent behaviour before the age of 12.

These preliminary results show that delinquent behaviour was significantly more prevalent among students in grades 7, 8 and 9 who reported consuming alcohol and drugs, who indicated having little parental supervision and who were living in a step-, or blended family at the time of the survey. Delinquent behaviour also increased significantly with the presence of delinquent friends. Further analysis would be required in order to identify whether these risk factors have an independent effect on the probability of delinquent behaviour.

Youth often committed delinquent acts in the company of others, most often their peers. Delinquent behaviour was often not discovered by adults. However, when delinquent behaviour was discovered, two-thirds of the time it was punished by parents, teachers or police officers.

This report presents initial highlights of the International Youth Survey. Future analysis of the impact of various risk factors and correlates of delinquency will enable us to better understand the underlying dynamics of the prevalence of delinquency. Such analysis will also need to take into account youth's school and community environments.

Methodology

Measurement of youth delinquency

Two major data sources are traditionally used in Canada to measure the extent of criminal activity: surveys of police services such as the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, and victimization surveys such as the General Social Survey (GSS). However, the two aforementioned surveys gather little information on risk and protection factors for youth delinquency. The 2006 International Youth Survey (IYS) carried out by Statistics Canada is meant to fill this gap. The main objective of the IYS, therefore, is to measure the prevalence and incidence of various types of delinquent behaviours among youth in industrialized countries. Other objectives of the IYS are to review the variability and correlates of self-reported youth delinquency and to provide detailed data in support of national policy development.

Sampling and response rate

The target population for the survey consisted of students in grades 7, 8, and 9 attending schools in the Toronto census subdivision. Schools in the Toronto Public School Board and private schools were eligible for selection. Students in

specialized schools were excluded from the target population.² The population actually surveyed differs very slightly, in that students in very small classes (10 or less) were excluded from selection.

The sampling frame was a stratified cluster sampling frame. Schools were first stratified by grade and geographic area, and a sample of schools was selected in each stratum systematically with probability proportional to size, where the size measure was identified as the number of students in the grade. This strategy was meant to provide for adequate representation of the various Toronto neighbourhoods and therefore of the city's demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

Statistics Canada interviewers visited selected schools to obtain consent from the principal. If consent was granted, the interviewer listed the classes and randomly selected one class in the desired grade. Students in the selected class were given consent forms for their parents to sign, and only students for whom parental consent was obtained were permitted to participate.

Data collection took place in April and May 2006. A paper-and-pencil questionnaire was administered to all students in the same class in a classroom session, much like a test environment. The classroom sessions were conducted by Statistics Canada interviewers.

There were 210 classes selected, 5 of which were determined to be out-of-scope, meaning that the school did not contain the grade for which it was selected. The breakdown of the 205 in-scope classes is as follows: 70 grade 7 classes, 69 grade 8 classes, and 66 grade 9 classes.

Of the 205 in-scope classes, 177 participated in the survey, resulting in a class response rate of 86% (89% for grade 7, 84% for grade 8, and 86% for grade 9). Within these classes, a total of 3,290 questionnaires were completed from a total of 4,553 listed students, yielding a student response rate of 72% (72% for grade 7, 74% for grade 8, and 70% for grade 9).

The overall response rate is obtained by multiplying the class response rate with the student response rate. For the IYS, the overall response rate is 62% (64% for grade 7, 62% for grade 8, and 60% for grade 9).

Students in grades 7 to 9 each accounted for 33% of the final respondent sample. Boys and girls took part in the survey in roughly equal proportions. Respondents' ages varied from 12 to 17 years. Overall, 21% were 12-year-olds, 34% were 13-year-olds, while 32% were 14-year-olds. Those aged 15 and older made up the remaining 13%.

2. During the planning phase, the Toronto Catholic District School Board declined to participate and therefore is not part of this study.

Data limitations

The IYS offers one way to estimate the full extent of criminal activity and victimization of a sample of youth, whether or not it was brought to the attention of the police because it collects information on all delinquent behaviours and victimizations reported by these youth.

Unreported youth delinquency can be considerable. The rate of crimes committed by youth and counted by police may vary according to a large number of factors, including the public's willingness to report crime, actual recording of incidents by police as well as amendments to laws, policies and enforcement practices. For example, incidents not reported to police by victims are not included in official crime statistics. Similarly, cases reported to police but deemed to be unfounded after investigation are also excluded from official crime data. For this reason, self-reporting surveys generally produce considerably higher rates of delinquency prevalence than do crime statistics from police services.

Despite the advantages of self-reported delinquency surveys, they are not without their limitations. First of all, it is presumed that respondents will accurately describe incidents. Secondly, youth at high risk for delinquency may be underrepresented in the survey frame (high schools), as some young persons may be away from school on the day of the survey while others may have dropped out of school. In fact, school absenteeism data suggest that the level of absenteeism was higher among delinquent youth on the day of the survey.

Results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. They might have been slightly different if the entire population had participated in the survey. The difference between a sample-based estimate and figures on the entire population is referred to as the "sampling error of the estimate." In this report, the coefficient of variation (CV) is used to measure sampling error. Estimates with a high CV (above 33.3%) have not been published because they are considered unreliable. In such cases, the letter "F" appears in figures and data tables. Any estimate with a CV that ranges from 16.6% to 33.3% must be used with caution and is identified by the letter "E." With respect to the IYS sampling design and sample size, an estimate of a given proportion of the total population expressed as a percentage is expected to vary from the actual proportion by no more than 0.8 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Acknowledgements

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Table 1

Lifetime prevalence of delinquent behaviours

	Delinquent youth		
	Male	Female	Total
Violent behaviours			
Snatching a bag, purse or something else from a person			
number	990 ^E	430 ^E	1,410
percent	3 ^E	2 ^{E*}	2
Carrying a weapon, such as a stick, chain, or knife			
number	4,580	1,510	6,090
percent	15	5*	10
Threatening somebody to get money or something else from them			
number	770 ^E	640 ^E	1,410
percent	2 ^E	2 ^{E**}	2
Participating in a group fight in a public place			
number	6,890	3,010	9,910
percent	22	10*	16
Intentionally beating up or hurting someone so badly they needed to see a doctor			
number	850	330 ^E	1,180
percent	3	1 ^{E*}	2
Total lifetime prevalence of violent behaviours			
number	9,310	4,160	13,470
percent	30	15*	23
Property-related behaviours			
Damaging something intentionally			
number	3,790	1,840	5,620
percent	12	6*	9
Stealing something from a store			
number	6,740	6,640	13,380
percent	21	23*	22
Breaking into a building with the purpose of stealing something			
number	320	F	380 ^E
percent	1	F	1 ^E
Stealing a bicycle			
number	1,170	210 ^E	1,390
percent	4	1 ^{E*}	2
Stealing a motorcycle or car			
number	F	F	F
percent	F	F	F
Stealing something out of (or from) a car			
number	770	390 ^E	1,160
percent	2	1 ^{E**}	2
Intentionally setting fire to property (other than your own)			
number	2,070	830 ^E	2,900
percent	7	3 ^{E*}	5
Total lifetime prevalence of property-related behaviours			
number	9,170	7,570	16,740
percent	30	26*	28
Drug-related behaviours			
Selling drugs, or acting as a middleman or go-between			
number	1,050 ^E	470 ^E	1,520
percent	3 ^E	2 ^{E*}	3
Total lifetime prevalence of delinquent behaviours			
number	12,550	9,050	21,600
percent	41	32*	37

^E use with caution (the coefficient of variation is between 16.6% and 33.3%)

^F too unreliable to be published (the coefficient of variation is higher than 33.3%)

^{*} There is a significant difference compared to male youth (Pearson's chi square, $p < .000$).

^{**} There is a significant difference compared to male youth (Pearson's chi square, $p < .025$).

Notes: Figures include all youth that reported a delinquent behavior; the same youth can be accounted for more than one delinquent behavior. However, totals calculate each youth only once. Figures are rounded at about 10. In addition, figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

Table 2

Last 12 months prevalence of delinquent behaviours by sex and grade

	Delinquent youth						
	Sex			Grade			
	Male	Female	Total	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Violent behaviours							
Snatching a bag, purse or something else from a person							
number	580 ^E	170 ^E	750 ^E	210 ^E	280 ^E	250 ^E	750 ^E
percent	2 ^E	1 ^{E*}	1 ^E	1 ^E	1 ^E	1 ^E	1 ^E
Carrying a weapon, such as a stick, chain, or knife							
number	2,800	990	3,790	850 ^E	1,370	1,570	3,780
percent	9	3 [*]	6	4 ^E	7	8	6
Threatening somebody to get money or something else from them							
number	360 ^E	390 ^E	740 ^E	170 ^E	300 ^E	270 ^E	740 ^E
percent	1 ^E	1 ^{E**}	1 ^E	1 ^E	1 ^E	1 ^E	1 ^E
Participating in a group fight in a public place							
number	4,110	1,570	5,690	1,760	2,040	1,880	5,690
percent	13	5 [*]	9	9	10	9	9
Intentionally beating up or hurting someone so badly they needed to see a doctor							
number	420 ^E	F	560 ^E	170 ^E	190 ^E	F	560 ^E
percent	1 ^E	F	1 ^E	1 ^E	1 ^E	F	1 ^E
Total year prevalence of violent behaviours							
number	5,590	2,380	7,980	2,220	2,970	2,780	7,970
percent	18	8[*]	13	11^{***}	15^{****}	14	13
Property-related behaviours							
Damaging something intentionally							
number	2,130	900	3,030	770 ^E	1,190	1,080 ^E	3,030
percent	7	3	5	4 ^E	6	5 ^E	5
Stealing something from a store							
number	2,660	2,180	4,830	850 ^E	1,680	2,310	4,830
percent	8	8	8	4 ^E	8	11	8
Breaking into a building with the purpose of stealing something							
number	220 ^E	F	230	F	F	F	230 ^E
percent	1 ^E	F	0	F	F	F	0 ^E
Stealing a bicycle							
number	680 ^E	F	710 ^E	F	F	350 ^E	710 ^E
percent	2 ^E	F	1 ^E	F	F	2 ^E	1 ^E
Stealing a motorcycle or car							
number	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
percent	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Stealing something out of (or from) a car							
number	340 ^E	190 ^E	530 ^E	F	260 ^E	F	530 ^E
percent	1 ^E	1 ^E	1 ^E	F	1 ^E	F	1 ^E
Intentionally setting fire to property (other than your own)							
number	1,300	490 ^E	1,790	340 ^E	760 ^E	690 ^E	1,790
percent	4	2 ^E	3	2 ^E	4 ^E	3 ^E	3
Total year prevalence of property-related behaviours							
number	4,520	2,950	7,470	1,500	2,870	3,100	7,470
percent	15	10[*]	13	8^{***}	15^{****}	15	13

Table 2

Last 12 months prevalence of delinquent behaviours by sex and grade – continued

	Delinquent youth						
	Sex			Grade			
	Male	Female	Total	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Drug-related behaviours							
Selling drugs, or acting as a middleman or go-between							
number	880 ^E	340 ^E	1,220 ^E	F	260 ^E	910 ^E	1,220 ^E
percent	3 ^E	1 ^E	2 ^E	F	1 ^E	4 ^E	2 ^E
Total year prevalence of delinquent behaviours							
number	7,420	4,400	11,820	2,790	4,300	4,730	11,820
percent	24	16*	20	14***	22***	24	20

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

^E use with caution (the coefficient of variation is between 16.6% and 33.3%)

F too unreliable to be published (the coefficient of variation is higher than 33.3%)

* There is a significant difference compared to male youth (Pearson's chi square, $p < .000$).

** There is a significant difference compared to male youth (Pearson's chi square, $p < .025$).

*** There is a significant difference compared to youth in other grades (Pearson's chi square, $p < .000$).

**** There is a significant difference compared to youth in other grades (Pearson's chi square, $p < .025$).

Notes: Figures include all youth that reported a delinquent behavior; the same youth can be accounted for more than one delinquent behavior. However, totals calculate each youth only once. Figures are rounded at about 10. In addition, figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

Table 3

Delinquent behaviours during the last 12 months, by sex

	Male	Female	Total
	number of self-reported incidents		
Violent behaviours			
Snatching a bag, purse or something else from a person	1,930	1,510	3,440
Carrying a weapon, such as a stick, chain, or knife	27,720	9,450	37,170
Threatening somebody to get money or something else from them	1,050	1,690	2,740
Participating in a group fight in a public place	13,560	4,140	17,700
Intentionally beating up or hurting someone so badly they needed to see a doctor	590	510	1,100
Total of violent delinquent behaviours	44,850	17,300	62,150
Property-related behaviours			
Damaging something intentionally	9,270	2,700	11,970
Stealing something from a store	15,580	9,530	25,110
Breaking into a building with the purpose of stealing something	520	16 ^E	540
Stealing a bicycle	2,440	27	2,460
Stealing a motorcycle or car	0 ^E	62 ^E	62 ^E
Stealing something out of (or from) a car	740	500	1,240
Intentionally setting fire to property (other than your own)	4,070	1,390	5,460
Total of property-related behaviours	32,610	14,230	46,840
Drug-related behaviours			
Selling drugs, or acting as a middleman or go-between	5,020	1,170	6,190
Total of delinquent behaviours	82,480	32,700	115,180

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

^E use with caution (the coefficient of variation is between 16.6% and 33.3%)

Note: Figures are rounded at about 10.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

Table 4

Age of onset of delinquent behaviours

	Age of onset							Average age	Median age	Mode age
	Under 10 years	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years and over			
Violent behaviour										
Snatching a bag, purse or something else from a person	17	4	5	20	38	16	0	11.9	13.0	13
Carrying a weapon, such as a stick, chain or knife	11	12	12	24	25	14	2	11.8	12.0	13
Threatening somebody to get money or something else from them	10	11	17	18	41	4	0	11.7	12.0	13
Participating in a group fight in a public place	13	13	17	22	22	12	2	11.6	12.0	12
Intentionally beating up or hurting someone so badly they needed to see a doctor	20	16	11	20	21	12	0	11.2	12.0	13
Property-related behaviours										
Damaging something intentionally	19	13	14	22	25	7	1	11.2	12.0	13
Stealing something from a store	33	15	10	20	16	5	1	10.3	11.0	12
Breaking into a building with the purpose of stealing something	22	6	8	16	38	11	0	11.3	12.0	13
Stealing a bicycle	13	14	22	22	12	16	1	11.4	12.0	12
Stealing a motorcycle or car	0	0	0	49	17	35	0	12.9	13.0	12
Stealing something out of (or from) a car	16	12	15	19	31	5	2	11.4	12.0	13
Intentionally setting fire to property (other than your own)	9	11	18	19	26	18	0	11.9	12.0	13
Drug-related behaviours										
Selling drugs, or acting as a middleman or go-between	2	0	4	11	28	41	15	13.4	14.0	14

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Note: Figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

Table 5

Prevalence of delinquency by socio-demographic characteristics, last 12 months

	Percentage of youth reporting delinquency
Characteristics in percentage	
Grade level	
7	14*
8	22*
9	24*
Sex	
Male	24*
Female	16*
Canadian born	
Yes	23*
No	15*
Immigrant parents	
Mother only	20 ^E *
Father only	33*
Both parents	18*
Neither parent	24*
Language spoken at home	
English	23*
Other	15*
Family composition	
Two parent family	18*
Single parent family	25*
Step/blended family	35 ^E *
Other	24 ^E *
Father's employment status	
Employed	20*
Not employed	14 ^E *
Mother's employment status	
Employed	21*
Not employed	17*
Quality of the parent-youth relationship	
Get along well with their mother	19*
Did not get along with their mother	36*
Get along well with their father	18*
Did not get along with their father	35*
Quality of parental supervision	
Parents are always aware of whom they were with	12*
Parents are sometimes aware of whom they were with	35*
Parents never aware of whom they were with	56*
Alcohol consumption	
Yes	35*
No	9*
Drug consumption	
Yes	60*
No	16*
Total year prevalence of delinquent behaviours	20

^E use with caution (the coefficient of variation is between 16.6% and 33.3%)

* There is a significant difference (Pearson's chi square, $p < .000$).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

Table 6

Prevalence of delinquency and delinquent friends and peers, last 12 months

	Percentage of youth reporting delinquency
Characteristic	
With whom do you spend most of your free time?	
Alone	16*
Family	19*
One to three friends	32*
Four or more friends	26*
Do you have delinquent friends?	
Yes	39*
No	8*
About your group	
Which best describes the ages of the people in your group?	
Younger (under 12)	12*
Same age (12 to 15)	20*
Older (16 and over)	42*
Does your group spend much time together in public?	
Yes	27*
No	11*
Are illegal activities accepted by your group?	
Yes	53*
No	15*
Does your group engage in illegal activities together?	57*
Yes	16*
No	
Do you consider your group of friends to be a gang?	45*
Yes	20*
No	
Total year prevalence of delinquent behaviours	20

^E use with caution (the coefficient of variation is between 16.6% and 33.3%)

* There is a significant difference (Pearson's chi square, $p < .000$).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

Table 7

Prevalence of victimization over the last 12 months by sex

	Victimized youth		
	Male	Female	Total
Type of victimization			
Someone wanted you to give them money or something else and threatened you if you did not do it			
number	2,230	740	2,970
percent	7	3*	5
Someone hit you violently or hurt you so much that you needed to see a doctor			
number	1,240	640 ^E	1,880
percent	4	2 ^{E*}	3
Something was stolen from you			
number	9,370	7,400	16,770
percent	30	26*	28
You were bullied at school			
number	6,320	6,200	12,520
percent	20	22**	21
Total			
number	13,100	10,690	23,790
percent	43	38*	40

^E use with caution (the coefficient of variation is between 16.6% and 33.3%)

* There is a significant difference compared to male youth (Pearson's chi square, $p < .000$).

** There is a significant difference compared to male youth (Pearson's chi square, $p < .001$).

Notes: Figures include all youth that reported a victimization incident; the same youth can be accounted for more than one type of victimization. However, totals calculate each youth only once. Figures are rounded at about 10. In addition, figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, International Youth Survey, Toronto, 2006.

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Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 27, no. 7

Victim services in Canada, 2005/2006

by Jodi-Anne Brzozowski

Highlights

- According to the Victim Services Survey, there were over 400,000 victims of crime who sought assistance from victim service agencies between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006.
- Based on a one-day snapshot of more than 8,000 victims that were helped by victim service agencies, almost three-quarters of these victims had experienced a crime against the person such as a sexual or physical assault, while the remainder were victims of other crimes such as arson, property crimes and traffic offences. Nearly seven in ten victims who sought assistance were females.
- Among the 697 victim service agencies and 8 criminal injuries compensation programs that responded to the survey, a large proportion were police-based (42%), followed by community-based (19%), sexual assault centres (17%), court-based agencies (8%), Ontario's Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services (7%) and system-based agencies (7%). The remaining 1% comprised criminal injuries compensation programs.
- Services most often offered directly by victim service agencies were: general information (96%), emotional support (95%), liaising with other agencies on behalf of the client (90%), immediate safety planning (90%), information on criminal justice system structure and process (89%) and public education/prevention (87%).
- Almost half (45%) of the agencies reported targeting specialized populations. Families of sexually abused children were most commonly targeted (70%), followed by adult victims of sexual assault (67%), and child or youth victims of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation (65%).
- The cost of providing formal services to victims of crime in Canada in 2005/2006, based on responses from 628 victim service agencies (excluding compensation programs), totaled \$152.2 million.



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Introduction

Until recently, there were no nationally available data on the number and types of victim service agencies in Canada. In an effort to fill this information gap, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), with funding from Justice Canada's Policy Centre for Victim Issues, conducted its first national survey of victim services in 2003. Recognizing the need to monitor the number and types of victim service agencies and to address emerging issues in the field of victim services, the Victim Services Survey (VSS) was repeated in 2005/2006.

This *Juristat* presents the findings from the second survey,¹ including the characteristics of victims who seek assistance from victim service agencies as well as the facilities and types of services that are provided to victims of crime.

Profile of victims served

Over 400,000 victims served in 2005/2006²

There were over 400,000 victims of crime who sought assistance from the 589 victim service agencies that provided annual counts between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006. Among those agencies that were able to provide a breakdown of annual counts, there were 161,000 female victims and 48,000 male victims. The sex was not reported for 190,000 victims.

Majority of victims served on April 19, 2006 were victims of violent crime³

The VSS also captured information on the characteristics of victims seeking formal services on a specific snapshot day. On April 19, 2006, 8,080 victims were served by 636 agencies.⁴ Among these victims, 72% were victims of violent crime such as sexual and physical assaults. Research suggests that victims of violent crimes suffer more debilitating and psychological effects (Sims et al., 2006) and are thus more likely to turn to formal sources of support such as victim service agencies (Stohr, 2005).

Another 24% of clients had experienced other types of incidents such as property crimes, other *Criminal Code* offences, or non-criminal incidents such as: suicides, drownings or motor vehicle collisions. The type of crime or incident experienced was unknown for 4% of victims served on snapshot day (Table 1).

The majority of victims served on snapshot day were females

Over two-thirds (68%) of victims who sought assistance on April 19, 2006 were female. This proportion is similar to what was found in 2002/2003. The high representation of females may be related to the fact that female victims in general are more likely to use formal support services than their male counterparts (AuCoin and Beauchamp, 2007).

Over half of female victims of violent offences served by agencies experienced violence at the hands of their spouse

Agencies reporting that their clients had been victims of sexual assaults and other violent offences were also asked to specify the relationship of the victim to the perpetrator. Among the more than 5,200 victims of these offences, 47% had experienced violence by a spouse, ex-spouse or intimate partner, 26% had been victimized by a family member other than a spouse, and the remaining 27% of victims were victimized by a non-family member (e.g. friend, neighbour, acquaintance or a stranger).

There were differences between the sexes when considering the relationship of the victim to the perpetrator. Among female victims for which the relationship of the perpetrator was known, 53% were victims of spousal violence, 24% had been victimized by a family member other than a spouse, and the remaining 23% had

Text box 1

Recent legislative and policy reforms and initiatives addressing the needs of victims of crime

Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime, 2003

The Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime was revised in 2003 and endorsed by the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Justice. The Principles are intended to promote fair treatment of victims and should be reflected in federal/provincial/territorial laws, policies and procedures. The Principles emphasize that victims should be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect; the importance of safeguarding victim privacy and safety; the consideration of victim diversity in the delivery of programs, services, education and training; and victims' right to information.

Victims Fund⁵

The Policy Centre for Victim Issues, Department of Justice Canada administers the Victims Fund. The objectives of the Victims Fund include: promoting access to justice and participation in the justice system and the development of law, policies and programs; promoting implementation of principles, including *Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime* and guidelines and law designed to address the needs of victims and articulate their role in the criminal justice system; contribute to increased knowledge and awareness about the impact of victimization and the needs of victims, available services, assistance and programs and legislation; promote government and non-governmental organization involvement in the identification of victim needs and gaps in services and in the development and delivery of programs, services and assistance to victims; and to provide emergency financial assistance to victims of crime in extraordinary circumstances, victims who wish to attend National Parole Board (NPB) hearings of the offender who harmed them (see below), and Canadians victimized abroad (see below).

The provinces and territories, which are responsible for the majority of victim services, are the primary recipients of funding from the Victims Fund, including many enhancements to the Fund announced in 2007. Provinces and territories are eligible for project funding for specific objectives, such as: funds to assist with the implementation of victim legislation; funds to provide financial assistance to victims who wish to attend sentencing hearings to present victim impact statements; funds to enhance or expand services to currently underserved victims; as well as emergency funds to assist victims in the territories. However, other components of the Fund are available to educational institutions, not-for-profit agencies and organizations, band and tribal councils, international organizations of which Canada is a member, and provincial, territorial, municipal and regional Canadian governments can apply to the Fund.

Financial assistance for victims to attend National Parole Board hearings

In November 2005, the Victims Fund was enhanced to defray the costs for registered victims who wish to attend National Parole Board (NPB) hearings of the offender who harmed them. The assistance is provided to cover travel, hotel and meal expenses. Any victim who wishes to attend

a NPB hearing must register with the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) or the NPB. Once NPB approval for the victim to attend the hearing is received, funding can be made available to victims. The victim must attend the hearing to receive the funds. In 2007 this Fund was enhanced to include the costs for a victim support person. Between November, 2005 and March, 2007, 509 people received financial assistance to attend NPB hearings.

Emergency financial assistance for Canadians victimized abroad

In 2007, the Victims Fund was enhanced to provide limited financial assistance to Canadians who are victims of serious violent crime abroad, who may incur unanticipated or exceptional expenses resulting from their victimization, and where no other source of funding is available. The types of crimes eligible for emergency financial assistance are: Homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault, assault with serious personal violence, including against a child.

Establishment of National Office for Victims, Public Safety Canada

Established in November 2005, the National Office for Victims compliments several existing federal services and is a central resource for victims of offenders under federal responsibility. Established within the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to better meet the needs of victims of offenders under federal supervision, the NOV provides general information for victims and the public as well as referrals to the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board for specific enquiries. The NOV also provides a victim's perspective in national Public Safety, CSC and NPB policy development. In addition, the office responds to complaints about the services provided to victims by the CSC and the NPB, once all existing avenues for complaint have been exhausted. The office is co-located with the Department of Justice's Policy Centre for Victim Issues that is mandated to coordinate federal initiatives for victims of crime and to ensure that the perspectives of victims of crime are considered in the development of policy and law reform

Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime

In 2007, the Office for the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime was created and announced by the Ministers of Justice and Public Safety. The mandate of the Ombudsman is to:

1. Facilitate access of victims to existing federal programs and services by providing them with information and referrals;
2. Address complaints of victims about compliance with the provisions of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* that apply to victims of offenders under federal supervision;
3. Promote awareness of the needs and concerns of victims and the applicable laws that benefit victims of crime, including to promote the principles set out in the *Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime* with respect to matters of federal jurisdiction;
4. Identify emerging issues and explore systemic issues that impact negatively on victims of crime.

a non-family relationship to the perpetrator. In contrast, 49% of males were victimized by a non-family member, 28% were victimized by a family member other than a spouse, and 23% had experienced violence at the hands of a spouse, ex-spouse or intimate partner.

Profile of Canada's victim service agencies

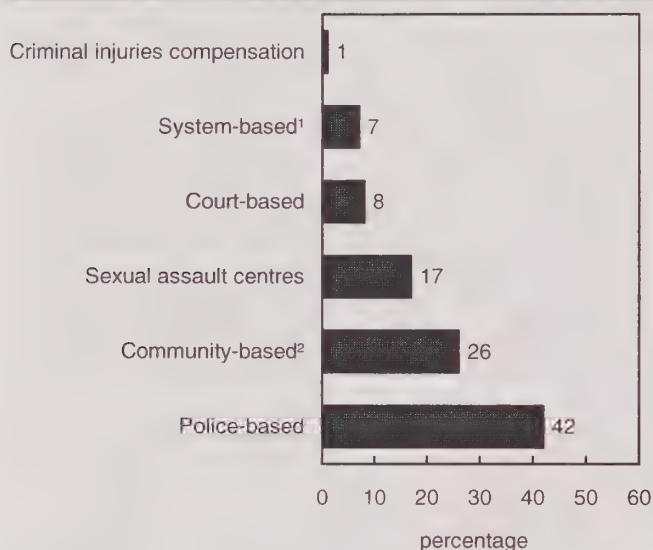
According to the 2005/2006 VSS, in the year ending March 31, 2006, there were 830 victim service agencies and 9 criminal injuries compensation programs that were identified as providing formal services to victims of crime through the survey. Survey responses were received from 697 victim service agencies and 8 criminal injuries compensation/financial benefit programs.⁶ A large proportion of victim service agencies were police-based

(42%), followed by community-based (19%), sexual assault centres (17%), court-based agencies (8%), Ontario's Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services (7%) and system-based agencies (7%). The remaining 1% comprised criminal injuries compensation programs^{7,8,9,10} (figure 1).

The cost of providing formal services to victims of crime in Canada in 2005/2006, based on responses from 628 victim service agencies (excluding compensation programs), totaled \$152.2 million.¹¹

Figure 1

Four out of ten victim service agencies are police-based



1. Services under this model assist victims throughout their contact with the criminal justice system from the police right through to the corrections stage. This model can be characterized as "one-stop" service delivery.

2. Includes Ontario Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral agencies which are community-based, but work directly with the police.

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Victim Services Survey, 2005/2006.

Rural and urban areas served by two-thirds of agencies

According to the 2005/2006 VSS, 69% of agencies reported serving rural areas, 67% reported serving urban areas and 29% reported serving reserves. Three percent of agencies reported being physically located on a reserve. While agencies may serve rural and urban areas as well as reserves, the geographic isolation of rural areas may reduce access to a variety of services (Purdon, 2004; Lunn, 2001).

General information and emotional support most commonly provided services

In an effort to be responsive to the various needs of victims of crime, Canada's victim service agencies offer a broad range of services, either directly or by referral to other agencies (Table 2). Research that has focused on determining the most frequently identified needs of those who use victim services most often points to the need for information and support (Prairie Research Associates, 2005; Wemmers and Canuto, 2002; Sims, 1999). The VSS found that the most commonly reported services offered by agencies were directly related to these needs. For example, the most frequent types of assistance provided directly by victim service agencies¹² were general information (96%), emotional support (95%), liaising with other agencies on behalf of the client (90%), immediate safety planning (90%), information on criminal justice system structure and process (89%) and public education/prevention (87%).

Not all victim service agencies can offer the specific services that their clients require, thus it is not uncommon to see networks form between agencies. According to the survey, 688 of the 697 reporting agencies had established some type of working relationship with other agencies. The most common partnerships were with the police (98%), other victim assistance agencies (98%), transition homes or shelters (90%), social services (89%) and other government agencies (85%).

Some of the most commonly reported factors that have promoted the use of inter-agency partnerships include: maximizing effective referrals (95%); improving the range and accessibility of services to victims (95%); coordinating services (93%); and sharing resources (90%).

Text box 2

Victims' use of services

There is a wealth of research that points to the fact that many victims do not turn to formal agencies such as the police or victim services (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005; Sims et al., 2005; Sims, 1999). According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization, 33% of violent victimization incidents were reported to the police and only 9% of violent victimizations resulted in the victim seeking help from a formal agency, such as victim services and crisis lines, counselors or psychologists, or community or family centres (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005). Furthermore, in only 1% of violent incidents did the victim seek support specifically from a victim service agency.

Victims of spousal violence were more likely than victims of non-spousal violent crimes to make use of formal services. More than one-third (34%) of victims of spousal violence used a type of formal service. The most common services used by spousal violence victims were counsellors or psychologists (28%), crisis centres or crisis lines (12%) and community centres or family centres (9%). For those who chose not to use formal services, the main reasons cited by both women and men were that: they did not want or need help from a social service agency (48% and 55% respectively); and, the incident was too minor (21% of women and 29% of men).

Text box 3

Types of victim service agencies in Canada

According to the VSS, 61% of agencies were government agencies offering direct or contracted services to victims of crime and 39% identified themselves as non-government/community-based organizations.^{13,14} The various types of victim services agencies are described below:

Police-based: victim services that are offered by a federal, provincial or municipal police service.

Court-based victim/witness assistance program: these programs are specifically mandated to provide support services for individuals who have become involved in the court process as either victims or witnesses of crimes. They generally provide information, assistance and referrals with the goal of making the court process less intimidating. Types of services provided may include court orientation, preparation and accompaniment, updates on progress of the case, coordination of meetings with the Crown, assessment of children's ability to testify, etc. Programs can be geared toward specific clientele such as children or victims of domestic violence.

Community-based victim/witness assistance program: not-for-profit organizations throughout Canada that participate in the delivery of a victim and/or witness assistance program. Quebec's crime victims assistance centres, commonly referred to as CAVACs, would be classified as this type of victim service agency.

Sexual assault/rape crisis centre or hospital-based sexual assault treatment centre: mandated to exclusively serve victims of recent or historical sexual assault. Sexual assault/rape crisis centres often have 24-hour crisis telephone lines and are community-based, not-for-profit agencies. Hospital-based sexual assault centres consist of a team of nurses and physicians that are on call 24 hours, 7 days a week through the emergency department so that victims of a sexual assault can receive specialized medical and emotional care.

Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service: specific to Ontario, these agencies are a community-based, non-government service that work closely with the police. They provide on-scene and short-term assistance to victims of crime and other traumatic events and make referrals to community services for longer-term assistance.

Other community-based: any other non-government, not-for-profit agencies not listed above that provide direct services to victims of crime and are funded in whole or in part by the provincial/territorial and/or

federal government. For the purpose of this survey, transition homes are excluded because Statistics Canada's Transition Home Survey already collects information from them.

System-based: models of service delivery for victims of crime that are independent from police, courts and crown attorneys and assist victims throughout their contact with the criminal justice system. System-based agencies also serve clients who choose not to involve the criminal justice system. These models of service are found in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba, where they are administered by the provincial governments.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Programs: programs that provide monetary awards and benefits to victims of crime to help ease the financial hardship incurred as a result of their victimization and to assist them in healing from physical injury or psychological trauma. Such programs are normally governed by legislation that outlines eligibility criteria and by guidelines for decision-making.

Other financial benefits programs: programs other than Criminal Injury Compensation Programs that are designated to pay for specific services for victims of crime, e.g. professional counseling, transportation to hearings, and paying for independent legal counsel to respond to applications by defense counsel to open counseling, therapeutic or medical records in cases of sexual assault.

Victim notifications through the Correctional Service of Canada: The Correctional Service of Canada's responsibility in regards to victims of federal offenders is as an information provider. Victims are entitled to be provided with the offender's name, the offence and court that convicted him or her, the start date and length of his or her sentence, and the offender's eligibility and review dates for temporary absences, day parole and full parole. If the victim's interest outweighs any invasion of the offender's privacy, further information can be provided, such as the name of the penitentiary where the offender is being held, conditions on and location of his or her release, and the date of the offender's National Parole Board hearing. Victims must request the information since it is not automatically communicated to them.

Victim information and attendance at National Parole Board hearings: Similar to the Correctional Service of Canada, the National Parole Board provides victims with information regarding the person who harmed them and also allows victims to make presentations at parole hearings.

Serving the needs of Canada's diverse population

Canada's population is characterized by its diversity. Being able to take this diversity into account may lead to the development and implementation of specialized programs or services that respond to victims in a way that reflects their diversity, whether they are differentiated by their age, sex, culture, language, sexuality, or physical or mental disabilities.

One way of meeting the needs of victims that has been identified is to target specialized populations (Stohr, 2005). Almost half (45%) of agencies that responded to the survey reported targeting specialized populations.¹⁵ Among those populations most commonly targeted, 70% of agencies targeted families of sexually abused children, 67% targeted adult victims of sexual assault, and 65% targeted child or youth victims of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.

Many agencies offer specialized programs

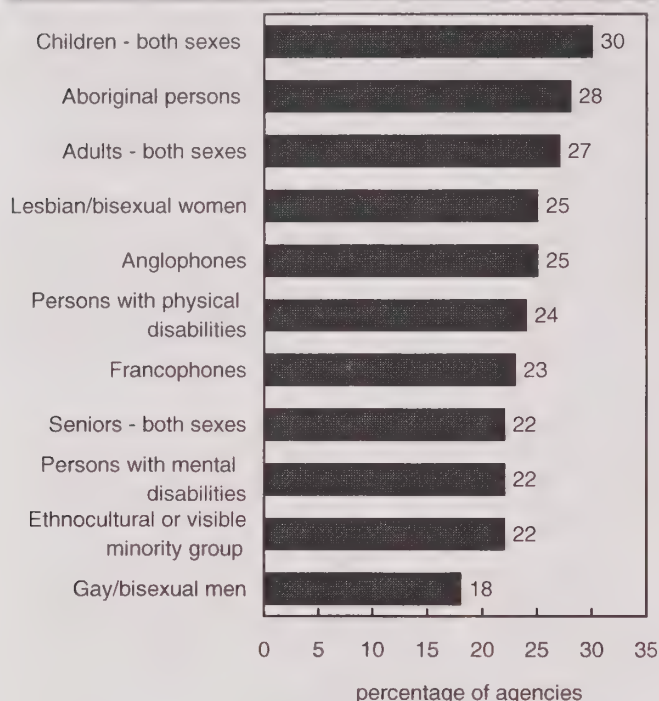
The VSS also asked agencies if they provided specific programs that were dedicated to certain segments of the population. Forty-three percent of agencies reported having such programs.

The most common groups to receive service through a dedicated program were children or youth (30% of agencies), followed by Aboriginal people (28%) and adult victims (27%) (figure 2).

Dedicated programs for other specialized groups such as visible minorities, homosexual or bisexual victims, seniors, and victims with disabilities were also available from a number of agencies. According to the VSS, 22% of victim service agencies had programs for ethnocultural or visible minority groups. Agencies most often delivered dedicated services to Black (African, Jamaican, Haitian), 20%, and Latin American, 18%, visible minority groups.

Figure 2

Agencies offering specific programs often focus on children or youth



Note: Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Victim Services Survey, 2005/2006.

In addition, results from the VSS show that 25% of agencies reported having programs for lesbian or bisexual women and 18% reported having programs for gay or bisexual men. Twenty-two percent of agencies offered programs dedicated to senior victims (aged 65 years and older), 24% offered programs for those with physical disabilities and 22% to victims with mental disabilities.

While certain agencies may not offer dedicated programs, they may have resources to help victims who speak languages other than English or French. Twenty-four percent of agencies¹⁶ reported that they had staff or volunteers who were able to speak at least one Aboriginal language. The other most common languages spoken by staff or volunteers were Spanish (20%), German (19%) and Italian (10%).

Agencies most commonly made available audio or visual resource materials in: Aboriginal languages¹⁷ (21%), Chinese (21%), Punjabi (20%) and Hindi (17%).

Majority of agencies are able to help clients with physical or mental health issues

The majority of agencies surveyed (92%) indicated that they were able to accommodate clients with mobility impairments, with 89% reporting having at least one wheelchair-accessible building entrance.

Of the 461 agencies that were able to accommodate clients with hearing impairments, the most common methods used were: sign language (66%), teletypewriter or telephone device for deaf (29%), and other services (11%).

Furthermore, 455 agencies reported being able to accommodate clients with visual impairments, either through: large print material (34%), other services (19%) or Braille (8%).¹⁸

Eighty-one percent of agencies reported being able to provide assistance to clients with mental health issues. Of these 565 agencies, 92% relied on partnerships or assistance from other specialized or professional agencies, 68% used informal assistance such as a family member, friend or caregiver to meet the needs of victims with mental health issues, and 52% used trained staff members.¹⁹

Profiling Canada's victim service providers

For 2005/2006, 662 victim service agencies (95%) reported the equivalent of nearly 1,800 paid full-time staff having worked that year, representing an average of almost 3 staff members per agency.²⁰ Victim service agencies rely heavily on volunteers. Almost eight in ten victim service agencies used the services of nearly 9,000 volunteers each between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006. These volunteers worked an average of 4 hours per week during this period, the equivalent of 912 full-time volunteers.

Being able to provide service to victims of crime often requires high levels of education and/or specialized training. About two-thirds (66%) of agencies reported that their minimum educational requirements for employees was a university or college degree, diploma or certificate. Requirements were less stringent for volunteers, with 8% of agencies reporting that their minimum educational requirements for volunteers was a university degree or college diploma.

Due to the scope and nature of the work of victim service agencies, the decision to recruit an employee may be based not only on educational qualifications, but also on the completion of certified workshops, seminars, or professional skills training directly related to the delivery of victim services. Seven in ten agencies (71%) reported having requirements such as these for the recruitment/staffing of employees.

Nearly all agencies (93%) reported delivering some type of training to their employees. The most commonly administered types of training were related to professional skills (94%), orientation training for new employees (94%) and awareness training for new or existing policies or practices (93%).

Over two-thirds of agencies offered training to their volunteers (68%). The most frequently delivered training sessions for volunteers were related to orientation (95%), followed by awareness training (92%) and professional skills training (88%).

Impacts on service delivery

There are a number of factors that can have an impact on the delivery of service such as changes in legislation, funding or programs. Agencies that responded to the survey were asked to indicate whether certain events that had occurred over the previous two years had an impact on the demand for service from their agency. One-third of agencies found that their caseloads increased because of a change in partnerships with other programs and a similar proportion reported that traumatic or high profile events in the community increased their caseloads.

Changes in funding can also have an impact on service delivery as it affects agencies' abilities to hire staff and develop programs. Nearly three in ten agencies (27%) reported increases in financial resources while 11% said that their financial resources decreased.

Amendments to and implementation of laws generally had little impact on service delivery, but when there was an impact, it was usually in the form of an increase in caseloads. Changes in provincial legislation led to an increase in the caseload of 10% of agencies, while similar proportions of agencies reported increases in their caseload due to changes to federal legislation such as the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and the *Criminal Code*. Changes to federal legislation also led to changes in the profile of agencies' clientele.

Criminal injuries compensation programs and other financial benefit programs²¹

According to the VSS, during fiscal year 2005/2006, nine provinces had compensation programs for victims of crime, and responses were received for eight of the nine.²² The aim of compensation programs is to alleviate the financial burden victims of crime and their families can incur as a result of the incident (Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, 2007). Each program is established according to its respective provincial legislative authority and is administered either by the ministry responsible for victim services or a compensation board.

While there are variations across the provinces in terms of eligibility criteria, in general the programs are available to the victim of a criminal offence (usually violent crimes), family members or dependants of persons who lost their life, and persons who are injured or killed while trying to assist a police officer or while preventing or attempting to prevent a crime (Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, 2007; US Department of Justice, 2005).

The eight criminal injuries compensation programs that responded to the VSS reported a total of 11,437 applications that were adjudicated or concluded during 2005/2006 and another 14,747 that were carried forward to the following fiscal year. Of the total adjudicated, 75% were allowed or granted and 18% were disallowed. The remaining 8% of applications had another status, such as decision pending, withdrawn or abandoned by the applicant.

Seven reporting agencies indicated paying a total of \$93.2 million in compensation for victims of crime in 2005/2006.²³ The largest proportion of this total was paid out for pain and suffering (44%), followed by lost wages (23%), and medical/rehabilitation/dental/eyewear costs (20%). The remaining 13% of compensation monies were allotted for other reasons such as child maintenance, counseling costs and funeral and burial costs.

Based on a subset of just over 6,600 applications that were accepted, 58% were for female victims, and 42% were for male victims.²⁴ Over three-quarters (76%) of applicants were over the age of 18.

When looking at all accepted applications, the majority of applicants (96%) were victims of crimes against the person. Among those victims, the most common types of crimes were assault (40%), sexual assault (20%), and assaults with a weapon or causing bodily harm (18%). Four percent of applicants were victims of other crimes such as arson, other property crimes and traffic offences.

The role of Canada's correctional system in serving victims

Canada's criminal justice system also plays a role in providing direct service to crime victims, once their perpetrators have been admitted into the correctional system, either through funding for victims to attend parole board hearings or through the provision of information on offender status within the correctional system. The VSS does not collect information on these services, however, data are available through the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board.

Victim notifications through the Correctional Service of Canada²⁵

During fiscal year 2005/2006, Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) had just under 4,600 victims registered to receive notification. At the end of the fiscal year, 97% of victims had successfully been contacted. CSC provided victims with 17,276 disclosures²⁶ of information for a total of 32,895 items of information. Almost one in five (19%) disclosures included information on escorted temporary absences, 14% on statutory release, 13% on day parole and 12% included information on full parole.

Victim information and attendance at National Parole Board hearings²⁷

Regarding the provision of information to victims, the NPB reported 16,711 contacts with victims for this purpose in 2005/2006, an increase of 8% over the previous 12-month period. The number of contacts with victims has increased 19% in the last five years and 500% in the last thirteen years. Most were victims of violence, such as sexual assault, or the family of murder victims.

Between July 1, 2001, when the recommendation to allow oral presentations at NPB hearings was implemented, and March 31, 2006, there were 700 presentations by victims at 474 NPB hearings. In 2005/2006, victims made 169 presentations at 111 hearings. Of this group, most were family members of victims of murder (33%) or manslaughter (25%). Victims made 78% of the presentations in-person, and the rest were on either audiotape/CD or videotape/DVD.

Since the implementation in November 2005 of the financial assistance fund for victims to attend NPB hearings administered by the Department of Justice up to October 2006, there was nearly a 50% increase in the number of hearings at which victims made presentations. Furthermore, the number of victims who made in-person presentations at these hearings more than doubled within this time period.

Methodology

This is the second cycle for the Victim Services Survey, which is funded by Justice Canada's Policy Centre for Victim Issues. It was developed in consultation with federal, provincial and territorial ministries responsible for justice and victim services, and with a number of victim service agencies from across Canada. The objectives of the survey are to provide a profile of victim service agencies, information on the types of services offered, and some insight into the clients who use them through a snapshot of clients served on April 19, 2006. In addition, the survey collects standardized information from criminal injuries compensation and other financial benefit programs regarding applications for compensation and awards for victims of crime.

Victim services are defined as agencies that provide direct services to primary or secondary victims of crime and are funded in whole or in part by a ministry responsible for justice matters. The survey covered system-based, police-based, court-based and community-based agencies, sexual assault centres, criminal injuries compensation programs and other financial benefit programs.

The Victim Services Survey is a mail-out/mail-back paper questionnaire and is intended to be a census of all victim service agencies that fall within its scope. Although it was intended that each service location complete one form, for administrative reasons, some lead agencies submitted one form representing data for all service locations under their administration. Of the 839 agencies eligible to respond, 396 forms were received representing data for 697 agencies and 8 criminal injuries compensation/financial benefit schemes. This resulted in a response rate of 84%. Of those deemed ineligible to respond, the majority were either closed or outside the scope of the survey.

When looking at provincial and territorial response rates, five provinces and territories had response rates of 100%: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Yukon and Nunavut. Agencies in Manitoba

had the next highest response rate at 93%, followed by Saskatchewan (90%), Ontario (88%), Nova Scotia (87%), the Northwest Territories (83%), Alberta (81%), Quebec (78%) and British Columbia (74%).

It is important to note that comparisons with the overall number of agencies and response rates between cycles is not recommended. This is in part due to changes to the current year's questionnaire, which allowed agencies to report whether they were responding on behalf of more than one location. This question was not asked during the first survey cycle, therefore, an agency might have represented more than one location last cycle but was recorded as being a single agency.

For the first cycle of the survey, this method of responding also affected the reliability of information regarding areas served by the victim service agencies. The survey asked respondents to indicate the areas they serve (i.e. urban/suburban, rural/village and/or reserve) and whether or not they were located on a reserve. However, when one form represented a number of service agencies each potentially serving different types of geographies, it was not possible to distinguish which agency served which types of geographic area and the number of agencies located on a reserve. As a result, the questionnaire was modified for this cycle to allow agencies reporting on behalf of other locations to provide a breakdown of areas served by each location.

Endnotes

1. The 2005/2006 Victim Services Survey identified 830 victim service agencies and 9 criminal injuries compensation programs as providing formal services to victims of crime. Responses were received from 697 victim service agencies and 8 criminal injuries compensation programs. The findings in this report are based on the agencies who responded to the survey. Some agencies did not respond to certain survey questions as the information was either unavailable or not applicable to their agency. Throughout the report, it is indicated when responses are based on a number of agencies that is smaller than the total.
2. Of the 697 agencies, 85% were able to provide annual counts for 2005/2006, 9% reported that they had no counts available and 7% did not indicate whether they could provide annual counts. Figures do not add to 100% due to rounding.
3. In order to capture more details on the profile of clients served by victim service agencies, the survey asked agencies about the age, sex and type of victimization experienced by the victims they served.
4. Snapshot day data were unavailable for 61 agencies.
5. For further information on the Victims Fund, visit the Department of Justice website at: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/voc/funding.html>.
6. The survey defines a victim as a primary or secondary victim of crime. Primary victims are those who were the direct target of the crime and secondary victims are those who were not the direct target of the offence but who were affected by it (e.g. family members, friends, classmates, etc.).
7. Figures do not add to 100% due to rounding.
8. See Text box 3: "Types of victim service agencies in Canada" for a description of types of agencies.
9. One agency was defined as an 'other' type of agency.
10. The analysis is based on the number of agencies that responded to the survey.

11. This amount excludes costs incurred to administer criminal injuries compensation and other financial benefits programs and other costs not specifically related to the formal delivery of services provided to victims of crime.
12. Based on responses from 697 agencies.
13. Based on responses from 690 agencies.
14. **Government – direct service:** a public department, agency or program that is entirely funded and whose service is delivered by regional, municipal, provincial, territorial or federal government departments and their agencies. Examples include: Police-based, system-based, court-based and corrections-based victim service agencies and criminal injuries compensation programs.
Government – contracted service: an agency, program or organization which is funded by a regional, municipal, provincial, territorial or federal department but whose service is delivered by a non-government or community-based agency. Examples include: Ontario's Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services (VCARS) and Quebec's Centres d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels (CAVACs).
Non-government/community-based organization: a private organization that is largely independent of government which is not created for financial or material gain and which addresses concerns such as social and humanitarian issues of development, individual and community welfare and well-being, disadvantage, poverty and environmental protection. Examples include: sexual assault centres and rape crisis centres.
15. Based on responses from 315 agencies.
16. Based on responses from 654 agencies.
17. The types of Aboriginal languages listed in the VSS include: Ojibway, Cree, Inuktitut and 'Other Aboriginal languages'.
18. Based on responses from 435 agencies.
19. Less than 4% of agencies reported using methods other than the ones already mentioned.
20. Excludes 21 agencies that were run completely by volunteers.
21. Aggregated figures for provincial criminal injuries compensation and financial benefit programs may be influenced by the activities of the largest provinces.
22. Of the ten provinces, only Newfoundland and Labrador did not have a compensation program during 2005/2006. A response was not received from British Columbia's compensation program.
23. Only seven out of eight agencies provided financial information.
24. This section of analysis excludes applications from Manitoba and Alberta where breakdowns by sex, age and crime was unavailable. For New Brunswick, details on applications by sex, age groupings and type of crime are based on all new applications received.
25. The data for this section are drawn from the Correctional Service of Canada's Offender Management System, April, 2006.
26. A disclosure refers to the release of information to a registered victim by CSC. These disclosures provided by CSC can contain more than one piece of information. Registered victims can request a wide variety of information types from CSC (see Text box 3).
27. The data for this section are drawn from the National Parole Board, Performance Measurement Division, which manually collects the information from the regional offices on a monthly basis.

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Table 1

Number of clients served, by sex, age groupings and type of crime, April 19, 2006

Type of crime	Males by age grouping														Females by age grouping					Age and sex unknown
	Grand total		Total males		0 to 18 years	18 years and over	Age unknown	Total females		0 to 18 years	18 years and over	Age unknown								
	number	percent	number	percent		number		number	percent		number		number							
Homicide	169	2	75	1	18	51	6	92	1	x	81	8	x							
Other offences causing death	151	2	58	1	8	42	8	82	1	12	66	4	11							
Sexual assault - total	1,851	23	275	3	103	162	10	1,518	19	415	1,043	60	58							
by spouse, ex-spouse, intimate partner	356	4	34	0	x	30	x	310	4	52	242	16	12							
by other family member	778	10	125	2	54	65	6	628	8	189	413	26	25							
by non-family relationship	717	9	116	1	46	67	3	580	7	174	388	18	21							
Other violent offences - total	3,411	42	562	7	146	400	16	2,534	31	183	2,193	158	315							
by spouse, ex-spouse, intimate partner	2,132	26	157	2	13	141	3	1,829	23	36	1,652	141	146							
by other family member	578	7	109	1	67	38	4	363	4	68	291	4	106							
by non-family relationship	701	9	296	4	66	221	9	342	4	79	250	13	63							
Criminal harassment (stalking)	203	3	19	0	x	15	x	175	2	13	153	9	x							
Total crimes against the person	5,785	72	989	12	277	670	42	4,401	54	626	3,536	239	395							
Arson	27	0	16	0	x	x	x	9	0	x	x	x	x							
Other property crimes	505	6	223	3	20	173	30	220	3	12	188	20	62							
Impaired driving	72	1	32	0	x	28	x	37	0	x	34	x	x							
Other traffic offences	72	1	24	0	x	17	x	39	0	x	31	x	9							
Other Criminal Code offences	299	4	83	1	20	57	6	163	2	42	111	10	53							
Non-criminal incidents	433	5	147	2	16	125	6	263	3	27	211	25	23							
Traffic incidents - undetermined if criminal	42	1	19	0	x	x	x	16	0	x	x	x	7							
Other incidents - undetermined if criminal	485	6	98	1	28	58	12	282	3	62	196	24	105							
Total other incidents	1,935	24	642	8	98	487	57	1,029	13	156	791	82	264							
Unknown type of crime	360	4	16	0	x	x	x	38	0	x	x	x	306							
Grand total	8,080	100	1,647	20	380	1,168	99	5,468	68	796	4,351	321	965							

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Victim Services Survey, 2005/2006.

Table 2

Percentage of victim service agencies that perform a service or work directly and/or through referral, by type of service and work, 2005/2006¹

	Direct service	Contracted service	Referral	Not applicable
	percentage			
Criminal justice-related services				
Information on criminal justice system structure and process	89	3	18	1
Court accompaniment	82	4	20	2
Assistance with victim impact statements	80	4	23	3
Court orientation/information	80	3	23	3
Victim/witness preparation	71	3	34	4
Case/trial updates	71	1	23	5
Prevention training (for victims)	60	2	33	11
Critical stress debriefing	59	3	29	16
Victim notification	55	1	37	8
Risk assessment (conduct or coordinate)	49	1	30	21
Legal information	40	1	66	3
Restorative justice/mediation measures: accompaniment and support	27	1	40	31
Restorative justice/mediation measures: orientation and information	16	1	49	31
Other criminal justice-related service	0	0	0	0
Other services				
General information	96	2	12	1
Emotional support	95	2	10	1
Liaise with other agencies on behalf of client	90	2	14	2
Safety planning - immediate	90	2	15	4
Public education/prevention	87	1	14	5
Crisis intervention/response	74	2	31	6
Hospital accompaniment	69	1	13	19
Training	67	3	13	13
Safety planning - long term	66	2	39	4
Advocacy	60	2	32	10
Transportation	54	2	34	17
Emergency and disaster responses	49	1	26	26
Crisis counseling	42	2	50	11
Claims assistance	38	0	44	22
Counseling - individual	28	4	63	11
Basic needs provision	28	1	66	17
Crisis/distress line	27	0	51	24
Self-help/peer support groups	24	1	74	5
Psychological assistance	24	3	66	12
Counseling - group	22	2	62	15
Lobbying activities	21	0	19	55
Compensation - financial	19	0	64	17
Shelter/housing - emergency	15	0	77	7
Counseling - couple/family	13	1	70	16
Conflict resolution	12	1	61	27
Housing assistance	12	0	80	8
Compensation - other	10	3	61	22
First aid/health/medical services	8	0	69	21
Child protection services	4	1	74	19
Other service	3	0	0	1
Shelter/housing - long term housing	2	0	84	10

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Victim Services Survey, 2005/2006.

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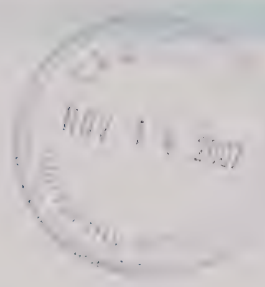
Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 27, no. 8

Homicide in Canada, 2006

by Geoffrey Li



Highlights

- Police reported 605 homicides in Canada during 2006, 58 fewer than the previous year. Following two years of increases, the national homicide rate fell by 10% to 1.85 homicides per 100,000 population.
- The largest decreases were seen in Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec. Quebec's homicide rate was the lowest in that province in 40 years. British Columbia and Prince Edward Island were the only provinces to report an increase in the number of homicides.
- After three years of increase, the rate of firearm-related homicides decreased 16% in 2006. There were 190 people killed with a firearm in 2006, 33 fewer than 2005. The longer-term trend in the use of firearms to commit homicide shows a general decline since the mid-1970s, similar to the trend in total homicides.
- Declines were reported in 2006 for both the rate of homicides involving handguns as well as the rate for rifles/shotguns. The use of rifles/shotguns has generally been declining since the mid-1970s, while the use of handguns has remained relatively stable over the last 15 years.
- Of the 45 recovered firearms where ownership could be determined, police reported that 26 were owned by the accused and 2 by the victim. The remaining 17 firearms were owned by someone other than the accused or victim, of which 10 were reported to have been stolen.
- The rate of youth (aged 12 to 17) accused of homicide was at its highest since data were first collected in 1961. A total of 84 youth were accused in 2006, 12 more than in 2005.
- Police reported that one in six homicides were gang-related in 2006, unchanged from 2005. Quebec reported the highest proportion of homicides involving gangs of any province, at just over one in four incidents.
- Most victims (83%) knew at least one of their attackers. Just over one-third were killed by a family member and another third were killed by an acquaintance. An additional 12% were killed by someone known to them through criminal activities, with strangers accounting for the remaining 17%.
- After four years of decline, the spousal homicide rate increased slightly in 2006. There were 78 spousal homicides, 4 more than in 2005. The spousal homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970s.



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Introduction

Homicides account for only a relatively small proportion (0.02%) of all crime known to police in Canada each year. There are four types of *Criminal Code* offences that constitute homicide: first-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.¹ As part of the Homicide Survey, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) collects detailed police-reported information on all homicides that occur in Canada.

This *Juristat* examines homicide trends at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area (CMA) levels. Information describing the methods used to commit homicide (including the use of firearms), accused-victim relationships (such as spousal or other family-related homicides), gang-related homicides, involvement in illegal activities, and youth homicides is also presented.

National homicide rate drops 10% in 2006

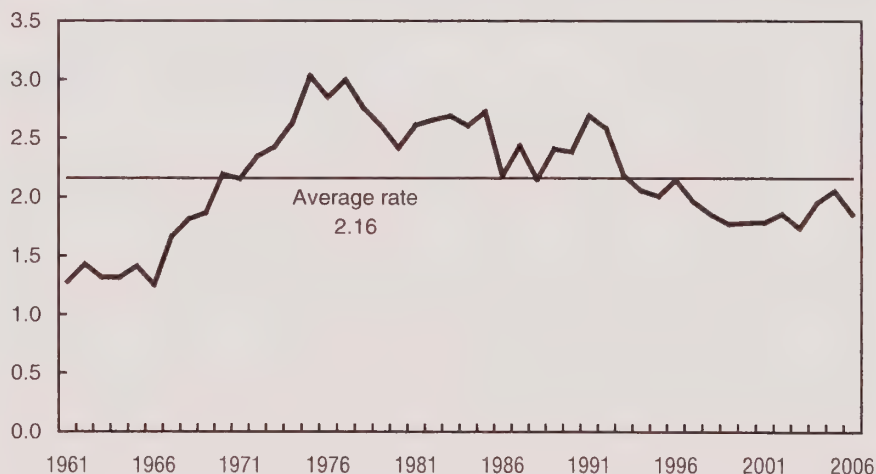
Following two years of increase, the homicide rate fell in 2006. Police reported 605 homicides in 2006, 58 fewer than the previous year (Table 1). Overall, there were 1.85 homicide victims per 100,000 population, a 10% decrease from the previous year (Table 2). In comparison, rates for many other types of violent crimes increased in 2006; attempted murder (+3%), aggravated assault (+5%), assault with a weapon/causing bodily harm (+4%), robbery (+6%) and kidnapping/forcible confinement (+12%) (Silver 2007).

Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two distinct trends. Following a period of stability between 1961 and 1966, the homicide rate more than doubled over the next ten years, reaching a peak of 3.03 homicide victims per 100,000 population in 1975. Since 1975, the rate has gradually declined, with some year-to-year fluctuations. However, the 2006 rate remains higher than rates in the early 1960s.

Figure 1

Homicides peaked in mid-1970s

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

International comparisons

The homicide rate in Canada in 2006 (1.85) is about one-third that of the United States (5.69). While the Canadian rate dropped by 10% in 2006, the rate in the U.S. remained virtually the same. When comparing to other countries, it was found that Canada's homicide rate was close to that of Scotland, and below such nations as Germany, Sweden, Finland and New Zealand. Canada's 2006 rate above that of England and Wales, Northern Ireland, Australia and Japan.

Text table

Homicide rates for selected countries, 2006

Country	Rate per 100,000 population
Turkey ¹	6.23
United States	5.69
Germany ¹	2.90
Switzerland ¹	2.73
Sweden ¹	2.64
New Zealand	2.37
Finland	2.12
Canada	1.85
Scotland ²	1.83
Hungary ¹	1.64
England and Wales ³	1.41
France	1.39
Northern Ireland ³	1.32
Australia	1.06
Denmark	0.90
Japan ¹	0.64
Hong Kong	0.51
Singapore	0.38

1. Figures reflect 2005 data.

2. Figures reflect 2005/2006 data.

3. Figures reflect 2006/2007 data.

Source: National Central Bureau, Interpol Ottawa and National Statistical Office websites.

Shootings down after three consecutive years of increase

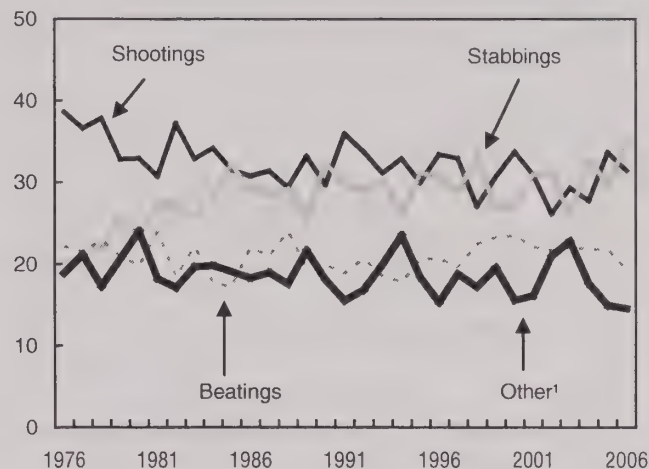
After three years of increases, the rate of firearm-related homicides decreased 16% in 2006 to about the same level as 20 years ago. In 2006, 190 people (31% of homicide victims) were killed with a firearm, 33 fewer than the previous year (Table 3). The longer-term trend in the use of firearms to commit homicide shows a general decline since the mid-1970s, similar to the trend in total homicides.

Handguns remain the most commonly used firearm, accounting for over half (57%) of all firearm-related homicides in 2006. Rifles/shotguns (19%) and sawed-off rifles/shotguns (13%) represented the majority of other firearms used (Table 4). The rate at which both handguns and rifles/shotguns were used to commit homicide decreased in 2006. However, the 24 victims killed with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun were the highest in over a decade.

Figure 2

Shootings and stabbings each account for one-third of all homicides

percentage



1. Other includes strangulation, poisoning, deaths caused by fire (smoke inhalation), exposure/hypothermia, Shaken Baby Syndrome, deaths caused by vehicles, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

The type of firearm used during the commission of homicides has changed over the past three decades. Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns were used far more frequently than handguns. However, while the use of rifles/shotguns began decreasing in the late 1970s, handguns increased sharply in the late 1980s, overtaking rifles/shotguns as the weapon of choice by 1991. Since then, the use of rifles/shotguns generally continued to decline, while the use of handguns has remained relatively stable.

There were 168 incidents of homicide involving firearms, accounting for 190 victims. Among the 61 firearms used to commit homicide that were recovered by police in 2006, 18 were reported as having been registered with the Canadian Firearms Registry, of which 12 were rifles/shotguns, 4 were handguns, and 2 were sawed-off rifles/shotguns. Of the remaining recovered firearms, 30 were reported as not registered while the registration status was unknown for the remaining 13 firearms.

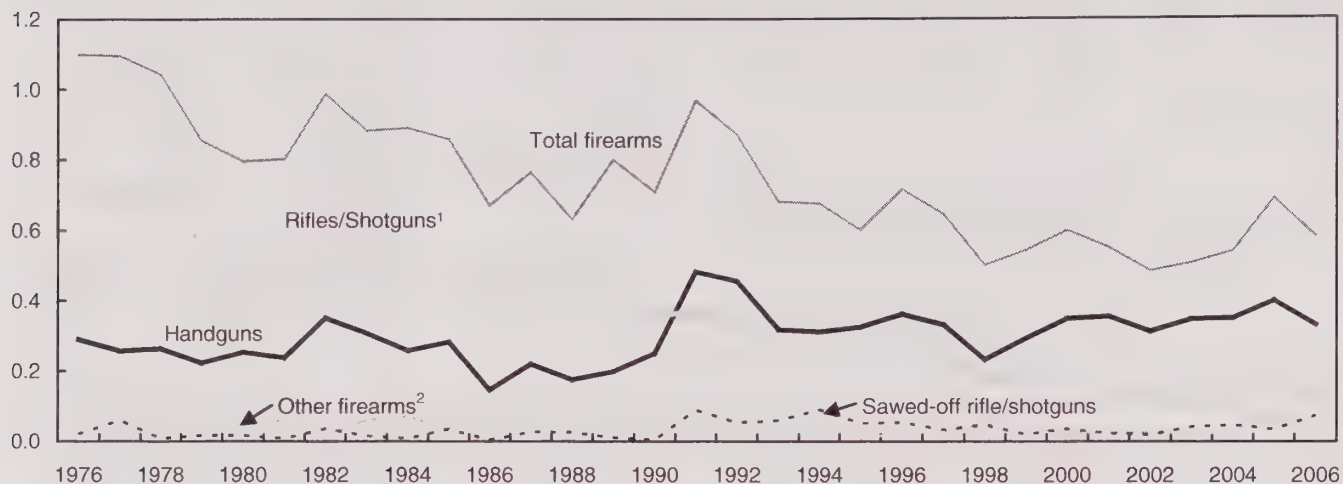
For the 45 of 61 incidents where the firearm was recovered and ownership could be determined, 26 were owned by the accused, 2 by the victim, and 17 by another person. The firearm was reported as stolen in 10 of these incidents.

In 2006, more victims were killed by stabbings than by shootings. There were 210 homicides committed by stabbings, 13 more than the previous year. This represented just over one-third (35%) of all homicides. Historically, stabbings and shootings have each accounted for about a third of all homicides annually.

Figure 3

Drop in both handguns and rifles/shotguns in 2006

rate per 100,000 population



1. Excludes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.

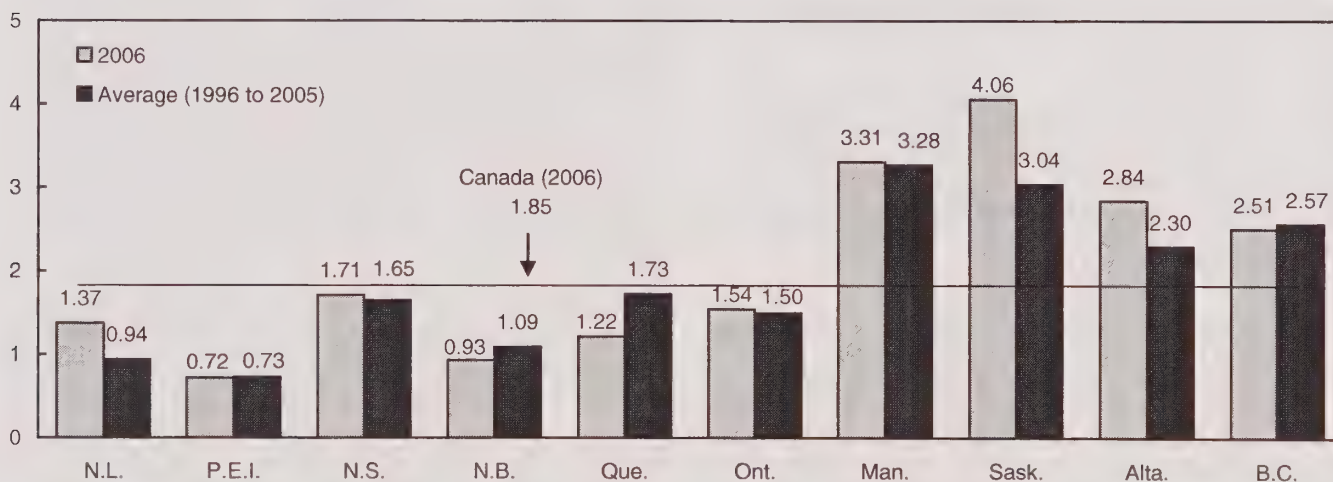
2. Includes firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Figure 4

Highest homicide rates usually in Manitoba and Saskatchewan

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Other common methods used to commit homicide in 2006 included beatings (19% of all homicides) and strangulation/suffocation (8%). These proportions were slightly less than in previous years.

Data from the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey² suggest most violent offences are committed without a weapon. In 2006, about one in six (18%) of the approximately 300,000 violent incidents involved a weapon. The most common weapon present during the commission of a violent crime was a knife (5% of all incidents). Firearms were present in 2% of all violent incidents. Handguns accounted for almost two-thirds (63%) of these firearms, with rifle/shotguns accounting for a further 11%.

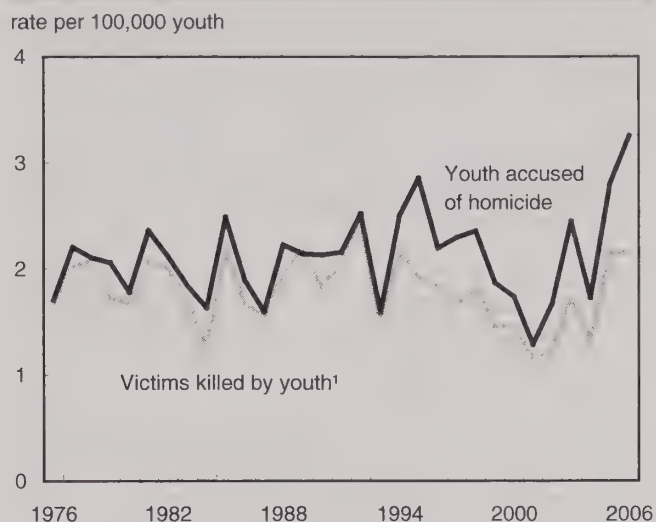
Homicides drop in most provinces

The largest decreases were seen in Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec (Table 1). Quebec's homicide rate was the lowest in that province in 40 years (Table 2). British Columbia and Prince Edward Island were the only provinces to report an increase in the number of homicides.

Similar to previous years, homicide rates were higher in the western provinces. In 2006, the highest homicide rates were found in Saskatchewan, followed by Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. The lowest rates were in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Figure 5

Youth accused (12 to 17) homicide rate at highest point in 2006



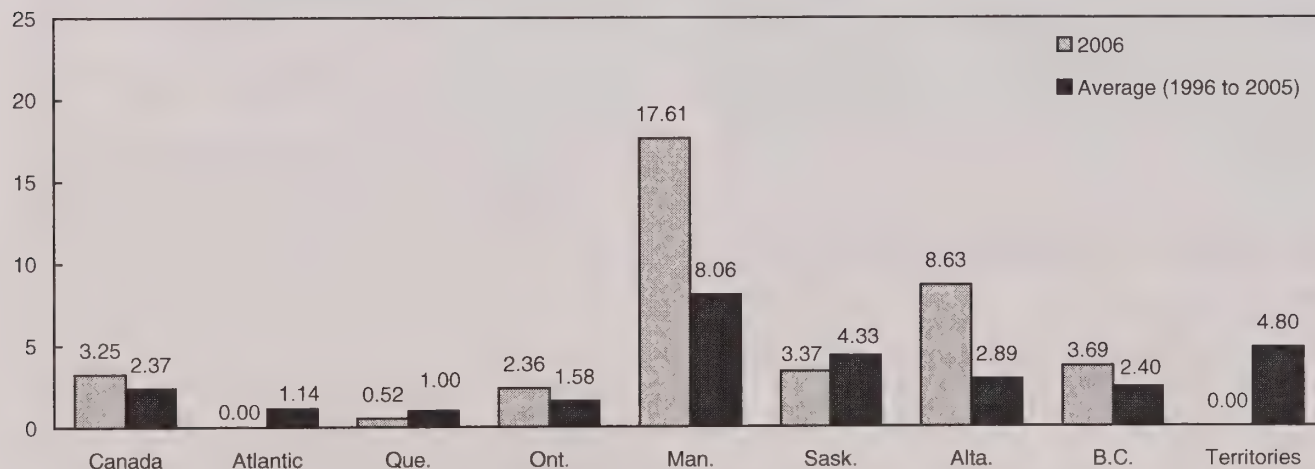
1. Represents a rate of homicide victims where there was at least one accused person between the age of 12 and 17.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Figure 6

Manitoba has highest rate of youth (12 to 17) accused of homicide

rate per 100,000 youth



0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Youth accused rate of homicide at its highest since 1961

Both the number and rate of youth (aged 12 to 17) accused of homicide reached their highest point since data were first collected in 1961. A total of 84 youth (72 male and 12 female) were implicated in 54 homicides, representing 15% of all persons accused of homicide in 2006 (Table 5).

While the youth accused rate peaked in 2006, five years ago the youth rate was at a 30-year low. Youth accused of homicide can vary greatly from year-to-year due to the relatively small number of youth who commit homicide.

Youth accused rates are lower in the eastern provinces, and higher in the west, similar to the overall homicide rates. The youth accused rate in Manitoba is much higher than the rates of other provinces and more than double the rate in Alberta, the province with the next highest rate.

While the number of youth accused of homicide increased in 2006, their number of victims remained about the same as 2005. Compared to adults, a higher proportion of homicides with youth accused of homicide involve multiple accused. Of all incidents involving youth in 2006, about half (52%) involved more than one accused, compared to 15% of incidents involving adults.

Gang involvement was more prevalent in homicides where youth were implicated. Police reported that there was evidence of gang involvement in 22% of homicide incidents where youth were accused, compared to 9% of incidents where adults were accused.

Youth used firearms to commit homicide less frequently than adults. In 2006, 17% of homicides with youth accused were shootings compared to 22% of homicides involving adults. Youth were slightly more likely to use knives and physical force (44% and 33%) than adults (42% and 23%).

Youth are more likely to kill strangers than adults. In 2006, 30% of all homicides with a youth accused were against a stranger compared to 16% of those where an adult was the perpetrator. Youths are also more likely to kill other youth and young adults (58% of all incidents with a youth accused) than are adults who commit homicide (22%).

1 in 6 homicides were gang-related

In 2006, police reported virtually the same number of gang-related homicides as in 2005. About 1 in 6 homicides, 104, were linked to organized crime or street gangs, of which 61 were reported by police as "confirmed" as being gang-related and 43 more were reported as "suspected" of being gang-related (Table 6).

Among the provinces, Quebec reported the highest proportion of homicides involving gangs. Just over one in four homicides in Quebec (25 of the 93 homicides) were gang-related in 2006.

Similar to previous years, shootings were the most common method used to commit gang-related homicides. Almost three-quarters of the gang-related homicides were committed with a firearm, usually a handgun. In comparison, less than one-quarter (23%) of non-gang-related homicides were shootings.

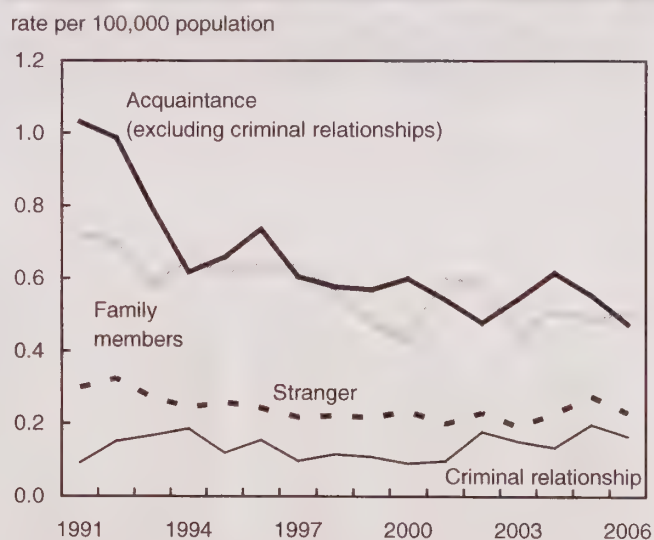
A previous study indicated that gang-related homicides tend to be more difficult for police to solve (Dauvergne and Li, 2006), and the most recent data support this finding. Less than half (45%) of gang-related homicides were solved by police in 2006, compared to about 80% of non-gang-related homicides.

Victims more likely to be killed by someone known to them

The data show year after year that homicide victims in Canada are more likely than not to know their killer. Of the solved homicides occurring in 2006, 83% of the victims knew at least one of their attackers. Just over one-third were killed by a family member and another third were killed by an acquaintance. An additional 12% were killed by someone known to them through criminal activities, such as a drug dealer, a gang member or a prostitute's client. The remaining 75 homicides, representing about 1 in 6 homicides in 2006, were committed by strangers to the victim. The rate of stranger homicides has been fairly stable over the past decade (Table 7).

Figure 7

Most homicides committed by someone known to victim¹



1. Criminal relationship data unavailable prior to 1991.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

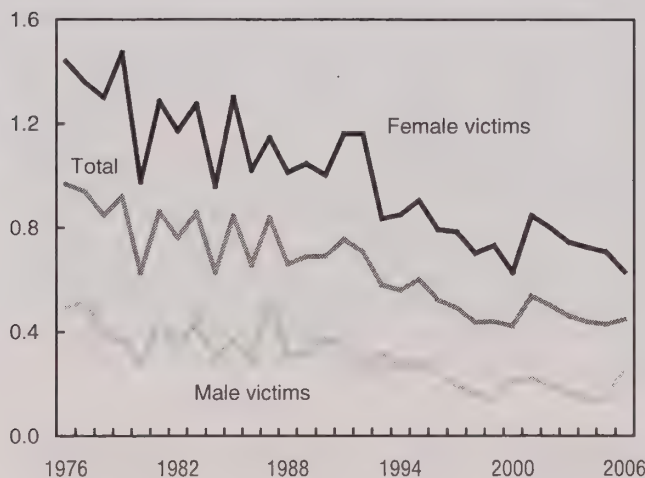
After four years of decline, the spousal homicide rate increased slightly in 2006 to 0.44 homicides per 100,000 spouses. In 2006, there were 78 spousal homicides, 4 more than in 2005. Generally, spousal homicide rates have been declining since the mid-1970s, but do vary from year to year. Spousal homicides are those that involve persons in legal marriages, persons who are separated or divorced from such unions and persons in common-law relationships (including same-sex spouses).

Women are generally more likely than men to be victims of spousal homicide and 2006 was no exception. There were 56 women killed by their husband (including common-law, separated, and divorced) and 21 men killed by their wife. The female victim spousal homicide rate was 2.6 times higher than the rate for male victims.³ However, in 2006, the rate for male spousal victims increased to its highest level in a decade, while the rate for females fell for the fifth consecutive year.

Figure 8

Spousal¹ homicides peaked in mid-1970s

rate per 100,000 spouses



1. Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples prior to 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Examining other family homicides, there were 31 victims killed by a parent in 2006, lower than the average of 40 seen over the past decade, and 15 parents killed by a son or daughter, also down from an average of 21 over the past 10 years. For a more detailed analysis of family-related homicides, refer to the annual *Family Violence in Canada* publication.⁴

Data from the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey⁵ for 2006 show that, for violent crime overall, most victims (70%) knew their attacker. One-quarter of all incidents involved a current or former spouse or a current or former boyfriend/girlfriend (15% and 10% of all incidents). A further 12% of incidents were committed by family members other than spouses, and one-third of total violent incidents were committed by an acquaintance of the victim. Strangers were involved in the remaining 30% of violent incidents.

Homicides down in most cities

Five of the nine largest CMAs⁶ (over 500,000 population) experienced declines in their homicide rate in 2006: Toronto, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Hamilton. Rates increased in Montréal, Ottawa and Québec. Calgary's rate was unchanged from the previous year (Table 8).

Despite five fewer homicides than in 2005, Edmonton continued to report the highest rate (3.68 homicides per 100,000 population) among the largest CMAs in 2006, followed by Winnipeg (3.03). Québec and Hamilton, each with seven homicides, reported the lowest rates (0.96 and 1.00 respectively).

Among all 28 CMAs⁷ (over 100,000 population), Regina, for the third year in a row, reported the highest homicide rate (4.49). Along with Edmonton and Winnipeg, Saskatoon (3.27) and Gatineau (3.10) were the only other CMAs with rates over 3.0.

Bucking the general downward trend nationally was the Ottawa-Gatineau area, which reported an unusually high number of homicides in 2006. The rate in Gatineau was the highest in almost 20 years and Ottawa's rate of 1.81 was the highest in over a decade. However, the rate in Ottawa was still similar to the national average.

Large decreases in the homicide rate were reported in 3 southwestern Ontario communities (Kitchener, London, and St. Catharines-Niagara) and in Halifax. Two CMAs in Quebec reported no homicides in 2006: Trois-Rivières, for the second year in a row, and Saguenay.

A recent study⁸ found that homicide rates tend to be highest in rural areas of Canada and lowest in small cities. Data for 2006 support these findings, as the rate in rural areas (2.0 homicides per 100,000 population) was higher than the rate in small cities (1.8) and in large cities (CMAs – 1.8).

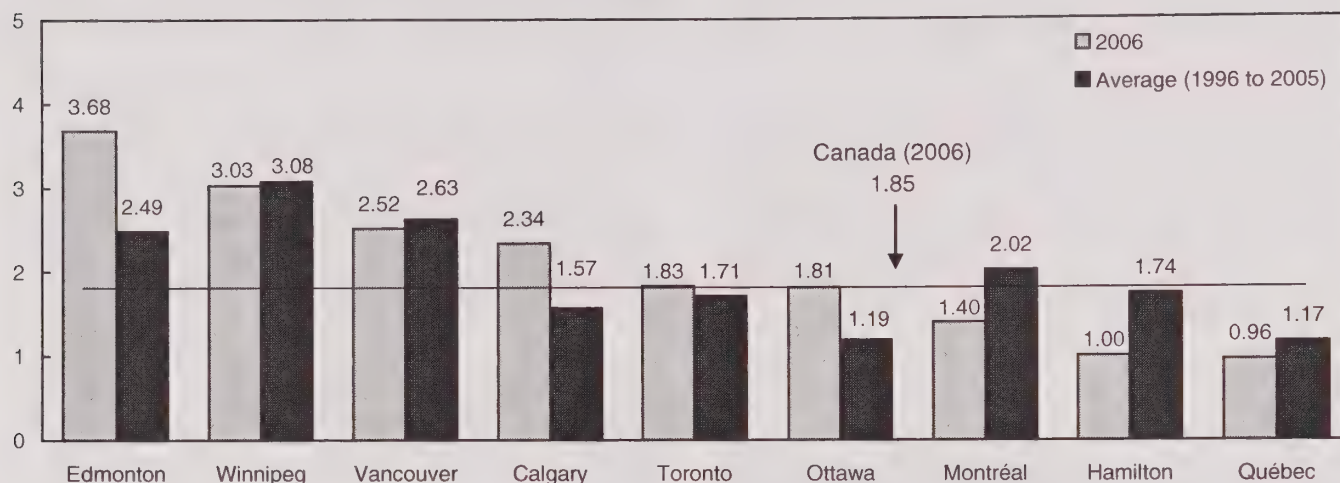
Three police officers killed in 2006

The Homicide Survey collects information on homicides that are related to a victim's occupation (legal or illegal). Because of the inherent dangers associated with particular occupations, there are those who may be at greater risk of being victims of violence and homicide. This analysis includes only those victims whose deaths were directly related to their profession.

Figure 9

Among largest CMAs, rates highest in west

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

For example, if a police officer was killed in a domestic dispute that was not related to his/her work, this homicide would not be counted as an occupation-related homicide.

It is relatively rare to be a victim of a homicide that is a direct result of legal employment. Since this information became available from the Homicide Survey in 1997,⁹ an average of 17 victims have been killed each year while "on-the-job".

In 2006, there were 12 occupation-related homicides, 3 of which involved police officers. Since 1961, there have been 128 police officers killed in the line of duty (an average of almost 3 per year). By comparison, figures for 2005 from the United States, with a population about 8 times greater than Canada's, reported 55 police officers feloniously killed in the line of duty.¹⁰

There were nine other homicides in Canada in 2006 that occurred as a result of the victim's legal employment. In 2006, these included transport truck drivers, taxi drivers and convenience store/gas station attendants.

Many victims involved in illegal activities

Data from the Homicide Survey show that homicides are often associated with a victim's involvement in illegal activities, such as gang activities, drug trafficking and prostitution. A total of 12 prostitutes were killed in 2006, similar to the average number reported each year prior to the discovery of the

homicides in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. Police were able to establish that five of the prostitutes were killed as a direct result of their profession, three were killed for reasons not directly related to their profession, and police were unable to make this distinction for the remaining four.

There were another 125 homicides committed against persons working in other types of criminal activities such as drug dealers, or members of an organized crime group or gang (82 of which were reported by police as directly related to their involvement in these activities), 19 fewer than in 2005.

Majority of victims and accused persons are male

In 2006, as in previous years, almost nine in ten (87%) persons accused of homicide were male (Table 9). The homicide rate for both accused males and females peaked at 18 to 24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age.

Almost three-quarters (73%) of homicide victims in 2006 were male. There were 442 male victims and 162 female victims. The victimization rate for both males and females also peaked at 18 to 24 years of age.

Previous studies have identified homicide to be a leading cause of injury-related death among pregnant women and new mothers (Chang et al., 2005; Krulewitch, C. et al., 2001). In 2005, a new question on whether the victim was pregnant at the time of the homicide was added to the Homicide survey.

In the two years that this information has been collected, police reported 10 of 342 female homicide victims as being pregnant. Of the 9 solved homicides committed against pregnant women, seven were committed by a current or former spouse or partner. The incidence of homicide against pregnant women may be under-reported, particularly among women who may be newly pregnant, as an autopsy may not necessarily include an examination of the woman's uterus.

Survey Methodology

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961. Until 1974, cases of manslaughter and infanticide were not included in the survey. However, while the detailed characteristics of the manslaughter and infanticide incidents prior to 1974 are not available, the counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then sent to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The total count of homicides recorded each year equals the total number of homicides *known* by police departments and *reported* to the Homicide Survey during that year. Given that some homicides only become known to police long after they occur, some incidents that actually occurred in previous years are counted in the year they are reported by police to the Homicide Survey.

Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Glossary of terms

For a list of terms and definitions, please go to <http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/3315.htm>, or call the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 19th floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 at 613-951-9023 or toll-free 1-800-387-2231.

Endnotes

1. The classification of homicide incidents in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change; however, this change will not be reflected in this report.
2. Coverage of the UCR2 survey for 2006 was 90% of the population in Canada.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses (includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older). Population estimates were derived from 2006 preliminary postcensal population estimates. Excludes same-sex spousal homicides due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.
4. Ogrodnik, L. 2006. *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Ottawa.
5. Coverage of the UCR2 survey for 2006 was 90% of the population in Canada.
6. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been adjusted slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.
7. The Ottawa-Gatineau CMA is split into its separate Ontario and Quebec portions for police reporting.
8. Francisco J. and C. Chénier. 2007. "A comparison of large urban, small urban and rural crime rates, 2005." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-002 XIE. Vol. 27, no. 3. Ottawa.
9. Before 1997, data are only available for police officers and correctional officers.
10. U.S. Department of Justice, 2006.

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Table 1

Number of homicides by province/territory, 1961 to 2006¹

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Y.T.	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada
1961	1	1	6	2	52	89	15	14	18	34	1	0	...	233
1962	0	1	10	8	62	76	19	13	18	55	3	0	...	265
1963	3	0	6	5	69	76	16	8	27	35	3	1	...	249
1964	5	0	13	5	52	81	16	20	25	32	1	3	...	253
1965	6	4	10	5	63	77	15	15	20	57	3	2	...	277
1966	3	1	9	6	56	71	17	12	27	48	0	0	...	250
1967	1	0	10	5	75	114	15	25	38	47	6	2	...	338
1968	5	0	9	5	102	104	28	23	25	73	1	0	...	375
1969	5	1	12	1	126	111	28	33	23	50	0	1	...	391
1970	1	1	15	8	141	115	29	24	42	78	6	7	...	467
1971	2	0	16	10	124	151	33	29	45	61	0	2	...	473
1972	2	2	14	11	157	141	36	28	37	88	3	2	...	521
1973	3	0	19	17	155	160	38	23	36	87	4	4	...	546
1974	3	2	8	21	169	160	42	31	44	107	5	8	...	600
1975	4	0	14	12	226	206	37	36	57	98	6	5	...	701
1976	6	2	25	14	205	183	31	34	68	88	4	8	...	668
1977	8	1	14	38	197	192	44	46	70	91	6	4	...	711
1978	9	4	13	27	180	182	39	32	84	85	2	4	...	661
1979	5	0	17	11	186	175	44	36	56	90	4	7	...	631
1980	3	1	12	9	181	158	31	31	55	105	2	4	...	592
1981	4	1	11	17	186	170	41	29	73	110	1	5	...	648
1982	6	0	12	13	190	184	35	39	70	109	2	7	...	667
1983	6	0	13	11	190	202	40	33	75	108	1	3	...	682
1984	6	0	15	14	198	190	43	30	54	110	2	5	...	667
1985 ⁴	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	...	704
1986	4	0	15	12	156	139	47	26	64	89	3	14	...	569
1987	5	0	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	0	2	...	644
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	31	23	66	80	1	8	...	576
1989	5	1	16	18	215	175	43	22	67	86	2	7	...	657
1990	0	1	9	12	184	182	39	36	74	110	1	12	...	660
1991	10	2	21	17	181	245	42	21	84	128	0	3	...	754
1992	2	0	21	11	166	242	29	32	92	122	2	13	...	732
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	120	0	7	...	627
1994	4	1	19	15	126	192	29	24	66	113	3	4	...	596
1995	5	1	17	14	135	181	27	21	60	120	4	3	...	588
1996	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	0	4	...	635
1997	7	0	24	8	132	178	31	25	61	116	1	3	...	586
1998	7	1	24	5	137	156	33	33	64	90	3	5	...	558
1999	2	1	13	9	137	162	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	538
2000	6	3	15	10	150	156	30	26	59	85	2	1	3	546
2001	1	2	9	8	140	170	34	27	70	84	1	4	3	553
2002	2	1	9	9	118	178	36	27	70	126	0	4	2	582
2003	5	1	8	8	99	178	43	41	64	94	1	4	3	549
2004	2	0	14	7	111	187	50	39	86	113	7	4	4	624
2005 [†]	11	0	20	9	100	219	49	43	108	101	1	0	2	663
2006	7	1	16	7	93	196	39	40	96	108	0	0	2	605

... figures not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

† revised

1. There are some homicides that are included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years.

3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2

Homicide rates¹ by province/territory, 1961 to 2006

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Y.T.	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada	Percent change Canada
1961	0.22	0.96	0.81	0.33	0.99	1.43	1.63	1.51	1.35	2.09	6.84	0.00	...	1.28	...
1962	0.00	0.93	1.34	1.32	1.15	1.20	2.03	1.40	1.31	3.31	19.99	0.00	...	1.43	11.6
1963	0.63	0.00	0.80	0.82	1.26	1.17	1.69	0.86	1.92	2.06	20.01	3.89	...	1.32	-7.8
1964	1.04	0.00	1.72	0.82	0.93	1.22	1.67	2.12	1.75	1.83	6.69	11.18	...	1.31	-0.3
1965	1.23	3.69	1.32	0.81	1.11	1.13	1.55	1.58	1.38	3.17	20.57	7.29	...	1.41	7.5
1966	0.61	0.92	1.19	0.97	0.97	1.02	1.77	1.26	1.85	2.56	0.00	0.00	...	1.25	-11.4
1967	0.20	0.00	1.32	0.81	1.28	1.60	1.56	2.61	2.55	2.42	39.97	6.89	...	1.66	32.8
1968	0.99	0.00	1.17	0.80	1.72	1.43	2.88	2.40	1.64	3.64	6.65	0.00	...	1.81	9.2
1969	0.97	0.90	1.55	0.16	2.11	1.50	2.86	3.44	1.48	2.43	0.00	3.22	...	1.86	2.8
1970	0.19	0.91	1.92	1.28	2.34	1.52	2.95	2.55	2.63	3.67	35.25	21.21	...	2.19	17.8
1971	0.38	0.00	2.01	1.56	2.02	1.92	3.30	3.11	2.70	2.72	0.00	5.49	...	2.15	-1.1
1972	0.37	1.76	1.75	1.70	2.54	1.77	3.59	3.04	2.18	3.82	14.89	5.16	...	2.34	8.1
1973	0.55	0.00	2.34	2.59	2.49	1.98	3.77	2.52	2.09	3.68	18.91	9.82	...	2.43	3.1
1974	0.55	1.72	0.98	3.16	2.70	1.95	4.12	3.41	2.51	4.38	23.73	19.45	...	2.63	8.4
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	3.57	2.48	3.61	3.92	3.15	3.92	27.39	11.67	...	3.03	15.1
1976	1.07	1.69	2.99	2.03	3.20	2.17	3.00	3.65	3.64	3.47	17.80	18.05	...	2.85	-6.0
1977	1.42	0.83	1.67	5.46	3.06	2.26	4.24	4.87	3.59	3.54	26.27	8.96	...	3.00	5.2
1978	1.59	3.29	1.54	3.86	2.79	2.12	3.75	3.36	4.15	3.25	8.42	8.84	...	2.76	-8.0
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.88	2.02	4.24	3.75	2.67	3.38	16.67	15.31	...	2.61	-5.5
1980	0.52	0.81	1.41	1.27	2.78	1.81	3.00	3.20	2.51	3.83	8.22	8.64	...	2.41	-7.4
1981	0.70	0.81	1.29	2.41	2.84	1.93	3.96	2.97	3.18	3.90	4.18	10.51	...	2.61	8.1
1982	1.04	0.00	1.40	1.84	2.89	2.06	3.34	3.95	2.96	3.79	8.17	14.14	...	2.66	1.7
1983	1.04	0.00	1.50	1.54	2.88	2.23	3.77	3.29	3.14	3.72	4.23	5.88	...	2.69	1.2
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.99	2.07	4.01	2.95	2.26	3.73	8.36	9.51	...	2.60	-3.1
1985 ⁴	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	...	2.72	4.6
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.33	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.96	12.26	25.60	...	2.18	-20.0
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	...	2.43	11.7
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.37	...	2.15	-11.7
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.69	2.69	7.38	12.27	...	2.41	12.0
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.91	3.34	3.60	20.37	...	2.38	-1.1
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	0.00	4.92	...	2.69	12.9
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.34	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.64	20.86	...	2.58	-4.1
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.84	3.36	0.00	11.04	...	2.19	-15.3
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	10.10	6.15	...	2.06	-6.0
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.18	13.14	4.52	...	2.01	-2.4
1996	1.25	0.74	1.93	1.20	2.13	1.69	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.23	0.00	5.93	...	2.14	6.9
1997	1.27	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.59	2.73	2.46	2.16	2.94	3.15	4.44	...	1.96	-8.6
1998	1.30	0.74	2.58	0.67	1.88	1.37	2.90	3.24	2.21	2.26	9.63	7.44	...	1.85	-5.6
1999	0.37	0.73	1.39	1.20	1.87	1.41	2.28	1.28	2.07	2.74	3.25	2.46	7.46	1.77	-4.4
2000	1.14	2.20	1.61	1.33	2.04	1.34	2.61	2.58	1.96	2.10	6.57	2.47	10.91	1.78	0.5
2001	0.19	1.46	0.97	1.07	1.89	1.43	2.95	2.70	2.29	2.06	3.32	9.80	10.67	1.78	0.2
2002	0.39	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.58	1.47	3.12	2.71	2.25	3.06	0.00	9.64	6.96	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.06	1.32	1.45	3.70	4.12	2.02	2.26	3.27	9.47	10.29	1.73	-6.6
2004	0.39	0.00	1.49	0.93	1.47	1.51	4.27	3.92	2.68	2.69	22.66	9.35	13.50	1.95	12.5
2005 ⁵	2.14	0.00	2.14	1.20	1.32	1.74	4.17	4.34	3.30	2.37	3.21	0.00	6.66	2.05	5.2
2006	1.37	0.72	1.71	0.93	1.22	1.54	3.31	4.06	2.84	2.51	0.00	0.00	6.50	1.85	-9.7

... figures not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

r revised

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. 1961 to 1970: final intercensal estimates; 1971 to 1995: revised intercensal estimates; 1996 to 2000: final intercensal estimates; 2001 to 2003: final postcensal estimates; 2004 to 2005: updated postcensal estimates; 2006: preliminary postcensal estimates.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3

Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1996 to 2006

Year	Shooting		Stabbing		Beating		Strangulation/ Suffocation		Shaken Baby Syndrome ¹		Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	
	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent
1996	212	33.4	195	30.7	132	20.8	59	9.3	...	...	8	1.3
1997	193	32.9	168	28.7	115	19.6	53	9.0	6	1.0	30	5.1
1998	151	27.1	186	33.3	125	22.4	61	10.9	6	1.1	12	2.2
1999	165	30.7	143	26.6	125	23.2	55	10.2	7	1.3	11	2.0
2000	184	33.7	149	27.3	128	23.4	40	7.3	13	2.4	5	0.9
2001	171	30.9	171	30.9	122	22.1	47	8.5	8	1.4	8	1.4
2002	152	26.1	182	31.3	126	21.6	67	11.5	8	1.4	9	1.5
2003	161	29.3	142	25.9	121	22.0	64	11.7	8	1.5	12	2.2
2004	173	27.7	205	32.9	136	21.8	63	10.1	6	1.0	13	2.1
2005 ^r	223	33.6	197	29.7	144	21.7	47	7.1	12	1.8	10	1.5
2006	190	31.4	210	34.7	117	19.3	48	7.9	3	0.5	12	2.0
<hr/>												
	Poisoning		Vehicle ¹		Other ²				Unknown		Total	
	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent			number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent
1996	6	0.9	...	...	12	1.9			11	1.7	635	100.0
1997	8	1.4	6	1.0	2	0.3			5	0.9	586	100.0
1998	6	1.1	3	0.5	2	0.4			6	1.1	558	100.0
1999	5	0.9	13	2.4	4	0.7			10	1.9	538	100.0
2000	4	0.7	14	2.6	1	0.2			8	1.5	546	100.0
2001	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9			8	1.4	553	100.0
2002	3	0.5	7	1.2	6	1.0			22	3.8	582	100.0
2003	6	1.1	6	1.1	7	1.3			22	4.0	549	100.0
2004	8	1.3	6	1.0	1	0.2			13	2.1	624	100.0
2005 ^r	7	1.1	4	0.6	3	0.5			16	2.4	663	100.0
2006	1	0.2	9	1.5	1	0.2			14	2.3	605	100.0

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Data became available in 1997.

2. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, starvation/dehydration and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4

Homicides involving firearms, by type of firearm, Canada, 1996 to 2006

Year	Type of firearm													
	Handgun		Rifle/shotgun		Fully automatic firearm		Sawed-off rifle/shotgun		Firearm-like weapons ¹		Unknown type		Total	
	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	Homicides involving firearms as a percent of total homicides
1996	107	50.5	81	38.2	8	3.8	16	7.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	212	33.4
1997	99	51.3	77	39.9	2	1.0	10	5.2	0	0.0	5	2.6	193	32.9
1998	70	46.4	51	33.8	12	7.9	14	9.3	0	0.0	4	2.6	151	27.1
1999	89	53.9	58	35.2	6	3.6	6	3.6	2	1.2	4	2.4	165	30.7
2000	107	58.2	58	31.5	4	2.2	11	6.0	0	0.0	4	2.2	184	33.7
2001	110	64.3	46	26.9	3	1.8	7	4.1	2	1.2	3	1.8	171	30.9
2002	98	64.5	40	26.3	3	2.0	6	3.9	0	0.0	5	3.3	152	26.1
2003	110	68.3	32	19.9	2	1.2	13	8.1	0	0.0	4	2.5	161	29.3
2004	112	64.7	37	21.4	2	1.2	15	8.7	0	0.0	7	4.0	173	27.7
2005 ^r	129	57.8	59	26.5	7	3.1	11	4.9	1	0.4	16	7.2	223	33.6
2006	108	56.8	36	18.9	2	1.1	24	12.6	2	1.1	18	9.5	190	31.4
Average 1996 to 2005	103	57.8	54	30.2	5	2.7	11	6.1	1	0.3	5	2.9	179	30.6

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

^r revised

1. Firearm-like weapons includes nail gun, pellet gun, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5

Youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1996 to 2006

Year	Number of youth accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹			Total youth as percent of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1996	50	3	53	4.03	0.26	2.19	9.0
1997	45	11	56	3.59	0.93	2.29	10.8
1998	55	3	58	4.35	0.25	2.36	10.8
1999	37	9	46	2.92	0.75	1.86	9.3
2000	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	9.0
2001	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	6.2
2002	33	9	42	2.55	0.73	1.67	7.7
2003 ^r	52	10	62	4.00	0.81	2.44	11.3
2004	39	5	44	2.98	0.40	1.72	7.4
2005 ^r	62	10	72	4.71	0.80	2.80	11.2
2006	72	12	84	5.44	0.95	3.25	15.3
Average 1996 to 2005	44	7	51	3.42	0.58	2.04	9.3

^r revised

1. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. 1996 to 2000: final intercensal estimates; 2001 to 2003: final postcensal estimates; 2004 to 2005: updated postcensal estimates; 2006: preliminary postcensal estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 6

Gang-related homicides, by region, 1996 to 2006¹

Year	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Territories	Canada	Victims of gang-related homicides as a percent of all homicides
1996	1	13	3	4	0	2	6	0	29	4.6
1997	1	17	1	2	0	1	6	0	28	4.8
1998	1	31	6	2	2	2	7	0	51	9.1
1999	0	30	5	1	0	4	5	0	45	8.4
2000	4	38	11	3	1	5	10	0	72	13.2
2001	0	23	19	4	1	4	10	0	61	11.0
2002	0	7	19	4	0	9	7	0	46	7.9
2003	1	15	38	6	4	8	12	0	84	15.3
2004 ^r	0	18	17	5	4	15	16	0	75	12.0
2005 ^r	1	24	31	5	5	24	16	0	106	16.0
2006	1	25	28	7	9	21	13	0	104	17.2
Average 1996 to 2005	1	22	15	4	2	7	10	0	60	8.7

^r revised

1. Previous to 2005, police were asked if the homicide was "gang-related". Beginning 2005, the question was amended to give police the option of specifying whether the homicide was: (a) confirmed as gang-related or (b) "suspected" as being gang-related. While it is unknown if "suspected" gang-related incidents were included in these numbers prior to 2005, indications from police officers are that they would have been in the majority of cases.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 7

Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship,¹ Canada

	2006		2005 ^r		Average 1996 to 2005	
	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent
Relationship type (Victims killed by)						
Family relationship						
Spousal relationship						
Husband (legal)	26	5.8	23	4.7	23	5.0
Husband (common-law)	16	3.5	21	4.3	21	4.5
Husband (legal, separated and divorced) ²	9	2.0	10	2.0	17	3.7
Husband (common-law, separated)	5	1.1	8	1.6	...	...
Wife (legal)	4	0.9	1	0.2	4	0.9
Wife (common-law)	16	3.5	10	2.0	8	1.7
Wife (legal, separated and divorced) ²	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
Wife (common-law, separated)	1	0.2	1	0.2	...	...
Same-sex spouse ^{3,4} (current and former)	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Total spousal	78	17.3	74	15.0	77	16.7
Non-spousal relationship						
Father ⁵	18	4.0	14	2.8	26	5.6
Mother ⁵	13	2.9	8	1.6	14	3.0
Son/daughter ⁵	15	3.3	27	5.5	21	4.5
Sibling	7	1.5	14	2.8	9	1.9
Other family relation ⁶	34	7.5	21	4.3	20	4.3
Total non-spousal	87	19.2	84	17.0	89	19.3
Total family	165	36.5	158	32.0	166	35.9
Acquaintance						
Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate (current or former)	15	3.3	17	3.4	19	4.1
Close friend	35	7.7	37	7.5	31	6.7
Neighbour	7	1.5	23	4.7	17	3.7
Authority figure ³	0	0.0	3	0.6	3	0.6
Business relationship (legal)	7	1.5	8	1.6	10	2.2
Casual acquaintance	91	20.1	91	18.5	101	21.9
Total acquaintance	155	34.3	179	36.3	180	39.0
Criminal relationship ⁷	54	11.9	64	13.0	41	8.9
Stranger	75	16.6	89	18.1	70	15.2
Unknown relationship	3	0.7	3	0.6	6	1.3
Total solved homicides	452	100.0	493	100.0	462	100.0
Unsolved homicides	153	...	170	...	121	...
Total homicides	605	...	663	...	583	...

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

2. Includes separated common-law prior to 2005.

3. Authority figure and same-sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, the average is calculated from 1997 to 2005.

4. Separate variables for same-sex spouse and ex-same-sex spouse were created in 2005.

5. Includes biological, adopted, step and foster relationships.

6. Includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc. related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.

7. Include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients, loan sharks, gang members, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8

Homicides by census metropolitan area (CMA)

Census metropolitan area ¹	2006 ²			2005 ³			Average 1996 to 2005	
	Population ⁴	number of victims	rate ⁵	Population ⁴	number of victims	rate ⁵	number of victims	rate ⁵
500,000 and over population								
Toronto	5,418,989	99	1.83	5,320,617	104	1.95	84	1.74
Montréal ⁶	3,706,698	52	1.40	3,676,239	48	1.31	67	1.92
Vancouver	2,181,591	55	2.52	2,159,526	62	2.87	53	2.58
Calgary	1,108,907	26	2.34	1,069,309	25	2.34	16	1.60
Edmonton ⁶	1,059,826	39	3.68	1,032,104	44	4.26	26	2.71
Ottawa ⁷	884,765	16	1.81	880,773	12	1.36	9	1.03
Québec	726,227	7	0.96	719,250	5	0.70	8	1.18
Winnipeg	726,138	22	3.03	696,538	26	3.73	22	3.22
Hamilton	701,691	7	1.00	696,913	11	1.58	11	1.63
Total	16,514,832	323	1.96	16,251,269	337	2.07	295	1.94
100,000 to less than 500,000 population								
Kitchener	491,635	2	0.41	485,177	7	1.44	5	1.09
London	473,364	5	1.06	471,009	14	2.97	6	1.26
St. Catharines-Niagara	435,125	4	0.92	434,171	14	3.22	7	1.65
Halifax	382,203	6	1.57	380,583	11	2.89	8	2.11
Oshawa	585,560	3	0.88	333,313	1	0.30	3	0.48
Victoria	338,570	4	1.18	336,437	2	0.59	6	1.80
Windsor	333,706	5	1.50	332,823	5	1.50	6	1.85
Gatineau ^{8,9}	290,392	9	3.10	288,925	3	1.04	3	1.27
Saskatoon	244,619	8	3.27	243,913	9	3.69	6	2.72
Regina	200,447	9	4.49	200,522	8	3.99	7	3.45
St. John's	180,543	1	0.55	180,082	2	1.11	2	1.03
Abbotsford ¹⁰	164,947	3	1.82	163,558	4	2.45	5	2.90
Greater Sudbury	161,821	2	1.24	161,583	2	1.24	3	1.47
Kingston ^{10,11}	153,584	2	1.30	154,130	5	3.24	4	1.96
Sherbrooke	148,102	1	0.68	148,379	0	0.00	3	1.14
Trois-Rivières	145,611	0	0.00	145,246	0	0.00	2	0.90
Saguenay	145,321	0	0.00	146,713	1	0.68	2	0.76
Thunder Bay	123,105	2	1.62	124,163	3	2.42	2	1.66
Saint John	98,657	1	1.01	101,793	0	0.00	1	0.74
Total	4,851,377	67	1.38	4,832,520	91	1.88	71	1.57
CMA totals¹²	21,366,209	390	1.83	21,083,790	428	2.03	371	1.86
Less than 100,000 population	11,257,281	215	1.91	11,215,706	235	2.10	217	1.93
Canada	32,623,490	605	1.85	32,299,496	663	2.05	583	1.88

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

r revised

1. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police force.

2. A total of 13 homicides were reported and included in 2006 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Montréal; 1 in Toronto; 1 in Edmonton; and 10 in areas less than 100,000 population.

3. A total of 16 homicides were reported and included in 2005 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Montréal; 1 in Ottawa; 1 in Toronto; 1 in Kitchener; 1 in Edmonton; 3 in Vancouver; and 7 in areas less than 100,000 population.

4. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; updated postcensal estimates for 2005 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2006, but are adjusted to correspond to police boundaries.

5. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

6. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2005.

7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

8. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2006.

9. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

10. Abbotsford and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. Average number and rate are calculated from 2001 to 2005.

11. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution and 1 that occurred in a halfway house in 2005.

12. Includes 4 homicides that occurred in a correctional institution in 2006.

Note: Due to rounding, the sum of the averages may not add up to the total.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 9

Victims of homicide and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1996 to 2006

Year	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
	number	percent	number	percent		number	percent	number	percent	
1996 ¹	435	68.5	200	31.5	635	520	88.4	68	11.6	588
1997 ¹	381	65.0	205	35.0	586	445	85.7	74	14.3	519
1998	381	68.3	177	31.7	558	474	87.9	65	12.1	539
1999 ¹	365	67.8	173	32.2	538	446	90.3	48	9.7	494
2000 ^{1,2}	397	72.7	149	27.3	546	423	88.1	57	11.9	480
2001 ²	392	70.9	161	29.1	553	449	87.5	64	12.5	513
2002 ¹	376	64.6	206	35.4	582	484	89.3	58	10.7	542
2003 ¹	391	71.2	158	28.8	549	488	88.7	62	11.3	550
2004 ¹	425	68.1	199	31.9	624	532	89.6	62	10.4	594
2005 ¹	483	72.9	180	27.1	663	580	90.2	63	9.8	643
2006 ³	442	73.2	162	26.8	604	476	86.7	73	13.3	549
Average 1996 to 2005	403	69.0	181	31.0	583	484	88.6	62	11.4	546

¹ revised

1. Total of accused excludes one person whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

2. Total of accused excludes two persons whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

3. Total of victims excludes one person whose gender was reported by police as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

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Female Offenders in Canada

by Rebecca Kong and Kathy AuCoin

Highlights

- Females account for a small proportion of all offenders. In 2005, one-in-five persons accused by police of a *Criminal Code* offence were female.
- The rate of crime among females is about one-quarter the rate among males. For every 100,000 females aged 12 and older in 2005, about 1,100 were accused by police of committing a *Criminal Code* offence, compared to a rate of about 4,200 for males.
- When females offended, they tended to commit theft (other than theft of a motor vehicle), common assault, bail violations and fraud.
- Females are infrequently repeat offenders and, for those who are, their crimes tend not to escalate in severity.
- While still quite low compared to male youth, the rate of 'serious violent crime'¹ among female youth has more than doubled since 1986 growing from 60 per 100,000 to 132 per 100,000 in 2005. Among female adults, the rate has also grown from 25 to 46 per 100,000.
- Rates of 'serious property crime'² among female youth and female adults have declined between 1986 and 2005.
- Women in correctional facilities are few. In 2004/2005, they accounted for 6% of offenders in provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 4% in federal sentenced custody and 6% remanded into custody to await court appearances.



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Introduction

Women and girls have historically accounted for a small minority of offenders in Canada, a reality that remains today. Research has consistently shown that females are much less likely to commit crimes than males.³ At one time, their scant numbers meant little was known about female offenders and their needs. It also meant that women and girls who committed crimes faced a Canadian criminal justice system designed for the predominantly male offender population.

It is precisely the relatively small number of women and girls who commit crimes that creates a need to regularly monitor trends in offending patterns among females, trends that become masked by the larger male population if not examined separately. Such information can be used in crime prevention strategies and to assess responses by the justice and social systems to females who offend or who are at risk of offending. Information may also serve to improve public understanding of crimes committed by women and girls.

The first part of this *Juristat* presents information on the prevalence of crime by females, as well as the nature of their criminal behaviour. This first part uses data from a non-representative sample of police services reporting to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey and *includes females who are either charged by police or who are not charged for various reasons (e.g., diversion), but against whom a charge could otherwise be laid due to sufficient evidence*. Because the UCR2 data are not available consistently over time, the second part of this report examines trends in the number of females *charged* by police relative to their representation in the general population to inform the question of whether or not there have been any changes over time in female offending. These trends are based on the Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. The third part examines the processing of cases through the adult and youth court systems to illustrate the responses of the judicial system and the representation of females in it. The final part of this report provides information on the number and characteristics of female adult offenders in the provincial/territorial and federal correctional systems.

Prevalence and nature of crime by females

Rate of offending low among females⁴

Relative to males, the rate at which females come into contact with police is low. According to data from a subset of 122 police services in 9 provinces, females aged 12 years and older accounted for 21% of persons accused of a *Criminal Code* offence in 2005 (see Text box 1). These police-reported data indicate that the overall rate of offending among females that year was almost one-quarter that of males (1,080 versus 4,193 per 100,000 population). This difference in rates was evident across all crime categories (Chart 1). The only type of crime for which females and males were apprehended by police at an equal rate was prostitution (19 females and 20 males per 100,000 population) (Table 1). This is likely because counts of offenders include both prostitutes and clients.

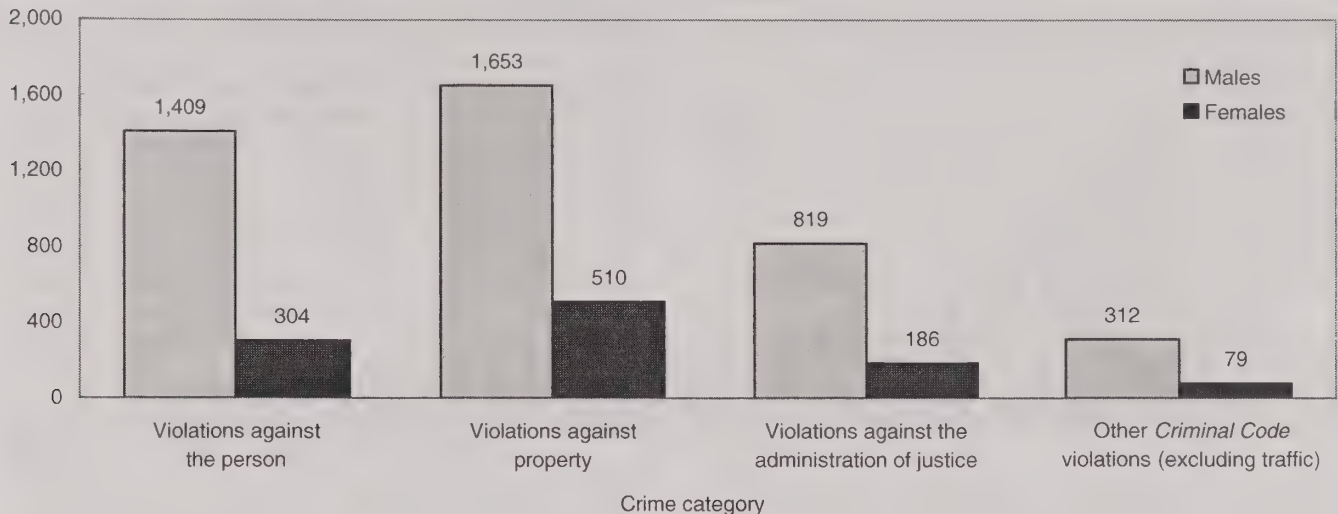
Text box 1 Accused persons

Under the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, accused persons are those who are either charged by police or who were not charged, but against whom a charge could be laid due to sufficient evidence. Examples of reasons why someone may not be charged are: death of the accused, use of diversionary/alternative measures program, police discretion, diplomatic immunity, complainant declines to proceed with laying charges, etc.

Chart 1

Females apprehended by police for crimes against the person at a rate 5 times lower than males, selected police services, 2005

rate per 100,000 population aged 12 years or older



Notes: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the accused was unknown. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police services representing approximately 71% of the population of Canada in 2005. Rate per 100,000 population for the geographic areas policed by the UCR2 respondents, based on populations provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Fifteen year-old girls had the highest rates of female offending

Research has found that the teenage and young adult years are times when individuals are most at risk of getting involved in criminal activity (Piquero et al., 2003). This is true for both females and males, although rates of offending are considerably lower for females. Data from the subset of 122 police services indicate that among females aged 12 years and older, rates of property-related crime peaked at age 15 (1,714 per 100,000 population), and declined considerably thereafter (Chart 2). The overall pattern among males was similar, with property crimes peaking at age 16 (4,517 per 100,000 population). In terms of violations against the person committed by females, girls aged 15 demonstrated the highest rates (854 per 100,000) whereas among males, rates peaked among 17-year-olds (2,476 per 100,000).

As with males, female youth aged 12 to 17 displayed higher rates of offending than female adults. According to the 2005 data from the non-representative sample of 122 police services, the rate at which female youth were accused by police of *Criminal Code* offences was three and a half times higher than the rate for female adults (Table 1). Fraud and prostitution were the only crimes where rates were higher among female adults. This is likely because youth lack the means to commit fraud (e.g. credit cards, chequing accounts, etc.) and, if working as prostitutes, they are often regarded as youth in need of protection rather than offenders.

Almost half of female accused were accused of a property crime

Compared to their male counterparts, a greater proportion of female accused were in contact with police for property crimes than for other types of crimes. Overall, 47% of females accused of a *Criminal Code* offence were accused of a property crime and 28% were accused of violations against the person (Table 2). In comparison, proportions for males were 39% and 34%, respectively. An additional 17% of females were in conflict with the police because of offences against the administration of justice⁵ and 7% for 'other *Criminal Code* offences' (e.g. weapons offences, prostitution, etc.).

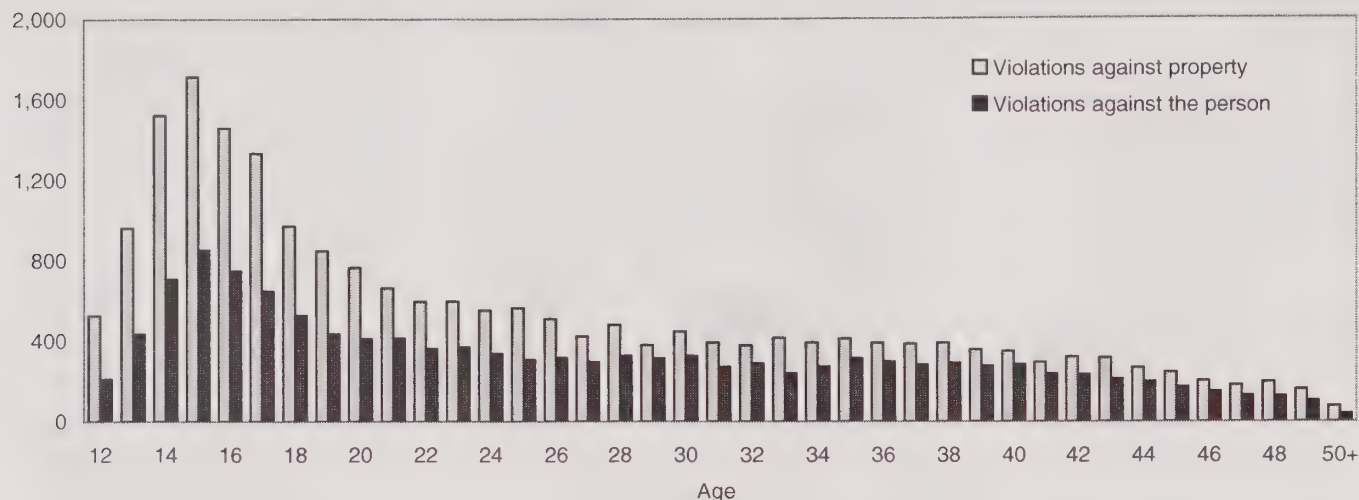
When females commit a violation against the person, it is most frequently common assault

Generally, the rate at which females are accused of violations against the person is about one-fifth the rate for males. Despite differences in the overall likelihood of offending, there are some commonalities in the most prevalent types of crimes committed by females and males, as well as some important differences. For instance, common assault is the most prevalent type of violation against the person among both females and males (Table 1). In 2005, 122 police services reporting to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey reported that females were accused of common assault at a rate of 155 per 100,000 females. The rate for males stood at 594 per 100,000 males. For both males and females, major assault

Chart 2

Among females, 15-year-olds have the highest rates of offending for violations against property and violations against the person, selected police services, 2005

rate per 100,000 population



Notes: Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the accused was unknown. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police services representing approximately 71% of the population of Canada in 2005. Rate per 100,000 population for the geographic areas policed by the UCR2 respondents, based on populations provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada. Populations as of July 1st; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

and uttering threats were the next most prevalent crimes. For each of these, the rate at which females were accused was about one-quarter the rate for males. Greater differences emerge, however, with respect to homicide, attempted murder, robbery and sexual offences. The participation of females in these types of violations against the person is far less likely. For example, the rate at which females were accused by police of robbery was eight times lower than the rate for males (13 per 100,000 females versus 110 per 100,000 males). Female rates for homicide, attempted murder and sexual assault were negligible.

Theft of something other than a motor vehicle is the most typical crime by a female

When females offend, they are most likely to commit a theft other than theft of a motor vehicle. At 291 accused per 100,000 females, this violation was not only the most prevalent property crime among females, but the most prevalent crime overall (Table 1). Moreover, theft by shoplifting was much more commonplace among females than males. Two-thirds (66%) of theft incidents involving a female accused were incidents of shoplifting compared to half (51%) of incidents involving males. Fraud is another property crime that is characteristic of female offending (84 per 100,000 females). For both theft and fraud, rates were about half the rates for males. With respect to breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft and mischief, the

likelihood that an offender is female is considerably less. While the female rate for breaking and entering was one-tenth the rate for males, the rate for motor vehicle theft was eight times lower and the rate for mischief was almost seven times lower.

The infrequent involvement of females in serious violent crimes, breaking and entering, and motor vehicle theft are echoed in recent studies of self-reported delinquency among youth (Fitzgerald, 2003; Savoie, 2007).

Regardless of sex of the offender, acquaintances most often victimized⁶

Who offenders victimize appears to be more a function of the offender's age rather than their sex. Youth, regardless of their sex, tend to victimize people outside of the family, most notably casual acquaintances. Police-reported data from 2005 indicate that 67% of female youth accused of violations against the person and 63% of their male counterparts victimized friends or acquaintances (Table 3). While the proportions of female adults and male adults who victimized friends or acquaintances were also high (45% and 41%, respectively), sizeable proportions of adult accused had victimized family members (38% and 37%, respectively) with most of these being spouses. Female youth accused of a violation against the person were those least likely to have victimized a stranger (13%), followed by female adults (17%), male youth (19%) and male adults (22%).

Little difference in levels of injury inflicted by female accused and male accused⁷

One indicator of the seriousness of a violent crime is the level of injury sustained by the victim and the use of weapons to cause injury. As demonstrated earlier, relative to males, it is rare for females to commit violent crimes. When they do, however, it appears that there is little difference in the proportion of victims who are injured when compared to victims of male-perpetrated violence. According to data from a subset of 121 police services, half (51%) of victims of female-perpetrated violence sustained no injury. A further 43% experienced a minor injury requiring no professional medical treatment or only some first aid and a further 2% experienced a major physical injury (requiring professional medical treatment at the scene or transportation to a medical facility) or death.⁸ It is notable that this pattern did not differ between victims of female youth or female adults. In comparison to females, just over half of victims of male-perpetrated violence were uninjured (54%) while 38% experienced a minor injury and 4% suffered a major injury or death.

Although uncommon, when women inflict injury, they are just as likely as males to use weapons

Although few women commit violent crimes and inflict injury, police-reported data suggest that when they do, females are as likely as males to use weapons. Data from a subset of 121 police services indicate that, overall, 21% of victims of female-perpetrated violence who experienced an injury were injured with a weapon and 76% were harmed through physical force.⁹ This distribution was almost identical for victims injured through male-perpetrated violence with 20% being harmed by weapon use and 77% harmed through physical force.¹⁰

Differences in weapon use emerge, however, when examining victims of violence perpetrated by female youth compared to female adults. While 23% of victims who sustained an injury at the hands of a female adult had a weapon used against them, the same is true of 15% of victims injured by a female youth. In fact, the proportion of victims harmed by a female adult as a result of weapons (23%) was slightly greater than the proportion who suffered the same at the hands of a male adult (19%).

Multiple charges and criminal history less common among females than males

Serious crimes and repeat offending are indicators of the extent to which an individual is committed to, or engaged in, crime. Police and court data indicate that female offenders have a tendency for weaker engagement in crime than male offenders. For instance, according to data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey from 2003/2004, a smaller proportion of female accused than male accused were before the courts with multiple charges (45% versus 52%). Other research has demonstrated that females are less likely than males to offend more than one time (Carrington, 2007; Carrington, 2005). They are also less likely to be persistent offenders, meaning they are less likely to commit offences both prior to and after their 18th birthday (Carrington, 2005). Finally, a study of self-reported offending by grade 7, 8 and 9 students in Toronto shows that

female youth commit less serious crimes than male youth and are more likely than male youth to offend one time only (Savoie, 2007).

Seriousness of female offending does not seem to increase over time for most repeat and chronic offenders

When females commit crimes more than once, their crimes do not appear to escalate in severity in most cases. According to a police-reported data file covering the 11-year time period of 1995 to 2005¹¹, 72% of the just over 422,500, females offenders in the file were one-time offenders. Repeat offenders, meaning those who had 2 to 4 police contacts, accounted for 21%, and chronic offenders (5 or more police contacts) were infrequent at 7%. Although few, chronic offenders were responsible for as many criminal incidents as one-time offenders (36% and 37%, respectively). Repeat offenders committed 27% of incidents.

Three in ten offences (29%) involving chronic offenders were offences against the administration of justice (Chart 3). These include bail violations, failure to appear in court, unlawfully at large, breach of probation, obstruct public or peace officer and escape custody.

Where police-reported data showed females going on to commit additional crimes, the severity of these subsequent crimes did not appear to escalate for the majority (71%). To attribute a level of seriousness to each violation, a scale of seriousness was constructed by first categorizing violent violations as more serious than other violations and then ranking seriousness according to the maximum penalty for violations as per the *Criminal Code*. To examine crimes that are not related to the judicial intervention of existing offences, offences against the administration of justice were removed from the analysis. According to this scale, it was found that 39% of chronic and 35% of repeat female offenders had no change in the level of seriousness between their first and last offence. For 31% of chronic and 38% of repeat offenders, there was a decrease in the level of seriousness. An increase in seriousness was found among 28% of repeat and 31% of chronic offenders.

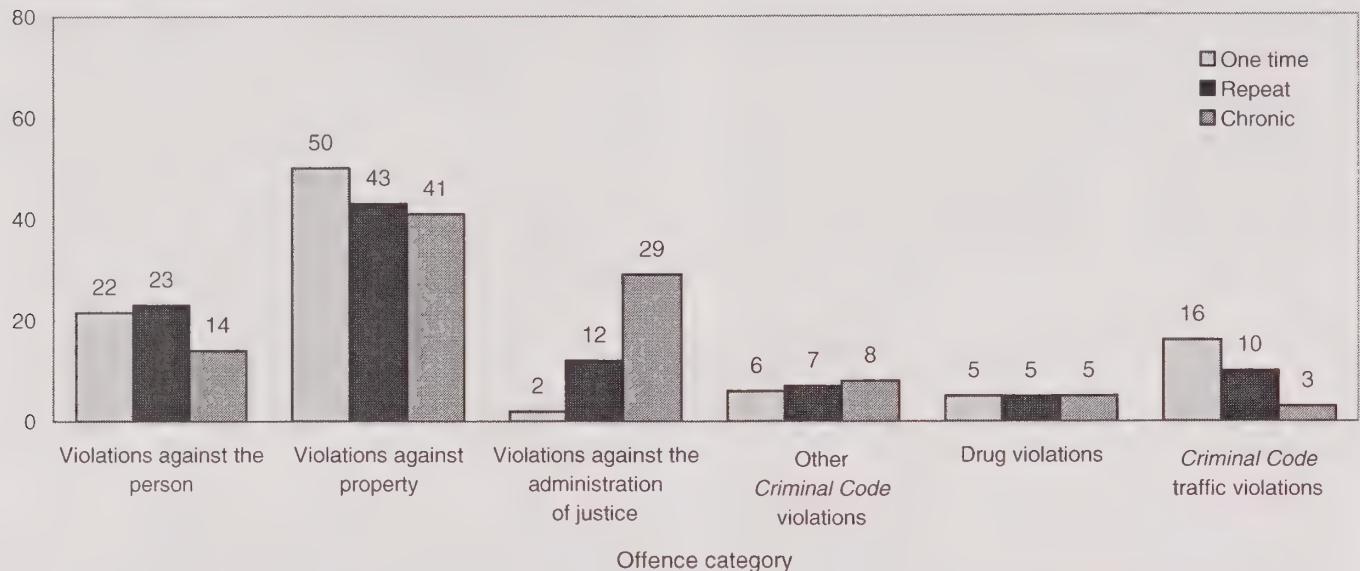
Trends in charging by police

Long-term trend data from police count the number of persons actually charged by police, not the number of persons against whom a charge could have been laid. Using data on persons charged as a measure for trends in offending can pose a challenge since the counts can be a reflection of changes in police practices, legislation and charging policies rather than changes in offending. And, as with all police-reported crime statistics, changes in the number of persons charged may also be influenced by the public's willingness to report crimes to the police. As more serious crimes (e.g., homicides, assaults resulting in injury or involving the use of weapons, and motor vehicle thefts) are less likely to be influenced by such changes, they may serve as a better means for informing the question of whether or not criminal behaviour among females has increased.

Chart 3

Offences against the administration of justice account for almost 3 in 10 offences among chronic female offenders, selected police services, 1995 to 2005

percentage of incidents



Notes: Repeat offenders are those who had 2 to 4 police contacts between 1995 and 2005 and chronic offenders are those who had 5 or more contacts. Excludes incidents where the sex and/or age of the accused was unknown. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 64 police services representing approximately 44% of the population of Canada in 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, Linked 11-year file.

The following section examines changes over time in the number of females charged by police relative to their number in the general population, meaning the charge rate. It presents data for female youth and adults, and provides comparisons with their male counterparts. Violent and property offences have been grouped into categories of 'serious' violent and property offences, based on their maximum penalty (see Text box 2). Data are also presented for assault level 1 (common assault) and 'theft of an item other than a motor vehicle' as these are the most prevalent, yet less serious offences that dominate the overall violent crime and property crime categories.

Text box 2

The category '**serious violent crime**' was constructed by grouping aggregate UCR Survey codes for violent offences that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years or more. Specifically, the category comprises: 1st and 2nd degree murder; manslaughter; attempted murder; sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3; assault levels 2 and 3; unlawfully causing bodily harm; discharge of a firearm with intent; abduction of a person under 14; and, robbery.

The category '**serious property crime**' was constructed by grouping aggregate UCR Survey codes for property offences that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years or more. Specifically, the category comprises: breaking and entering; fraud; arson; motor vehicle theft, and; possession of stolen goods.

Overall rate of females charged by police has been declining

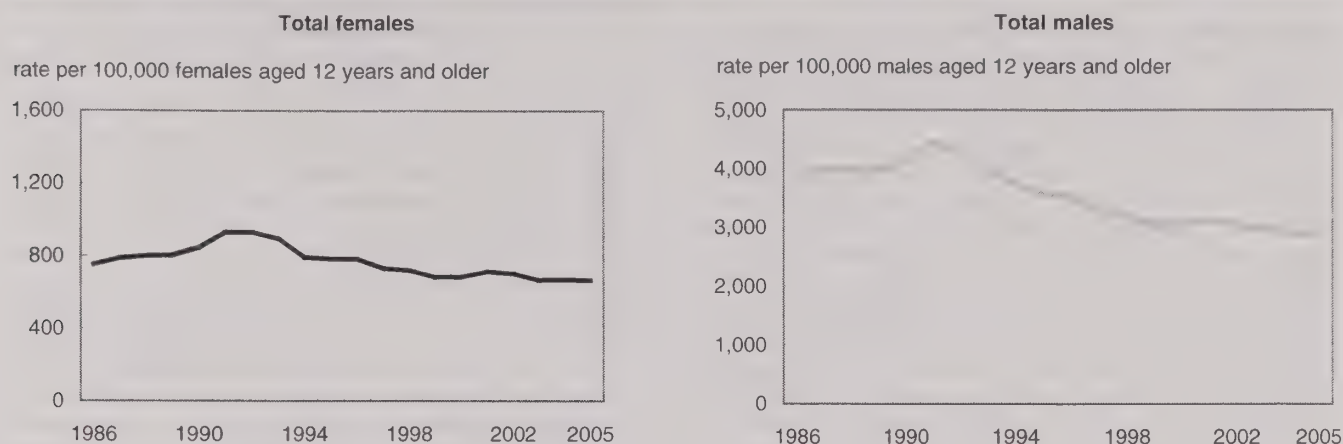
Overall, the rate at which females aged 12 and older have been charged by police for *Criminal Code* offences has fallen 28% since peaking in 1992 (Chart 4). That year, for every 100,000 females in Canada, 929 were charged by police, compared to a rate of 666 per 100,000 in 2005. Similar decreases have also been seen within the male population and these trends in charging mirror overall trends in the national crime rate.

Rate at which female youth and adults charged with serious violent crime¹² higher than 20 years earlier

For both female youth and female adults, charge rates for 'serious violent crimes' have increased since the mid-1980s. However, rates remain substantially lower than rates for their male counterparts. Compared to 1986¹³, the rate for 'serious violent crime' among female youth aged 12 to 17 years has more than doubled, growing from 60 per 100,000 that year to a rate of 132 per 100,000 in 2005 (Chart 5). This difference is not a result of recent growth, but stems from a steady rise that occurred from the 1980s to the early 1990s. In fact, since 2001 the rate at which female youth were charged with serious violent crimes has slowly been moving downward. With respect to assault level 1 (the least serious form of assault), charge rates soared upward from 88 to 299 per 100,000 population between 1986 and 1993 and continued upward until 2002. A

Chart 4

Rate at which females charged by police with *Criminal Code* offences has been declining since 1991, as has the rate for males, Canada, 1986 to 2005



Notes: Rates are based on population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1986 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003 and 2004, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Chart 5

Rate at which female youth charged with serious violent offences still low, but has grown during past two decades, Canada, 1986 to 2005



Notes: Rates are based on population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1986 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003 and 2004, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005. For the purpose of this analysis, 'serious violent crime' was constructed by grouping UCR Survey codes for violent offences that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years or more. Specifically, the category comprises: 1st and 2nd degree murder; manslaughter; attempted murder; sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3; assault levels 2 and 3; unlawfully causing bodily harm; discharge of a firearm with intent; abduction of a person under 14; and, robbery.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

downward trend began after 2002 with the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The rates for male youth for 'serious violent crimes' and assault level 1 show similar patterns, with the exception of showing decreases between the mid- and late-1990s.

Between 1986 and 2005, the rate of serious violent crime among female adults moved from 25 to 46 per 100,000 population, with most of the change occurring before 1994 (Chart 6). Despite a few dips over the years, the rate at which women were charged with assault level 1 more than doubled from 1986 to 2005, growing from 44 to 93 per 100,000 population. Rates among male adults, however, have taken a very different path during the last decade and a half with rates sliding downward since the early 1990s. Between 1991 and 2005, the charge rate for male adults for serious violent crime dropped 30%, moving from 412 to 290 per 100,000. From 1993 to 2005, the charge rate for assault level 1 for male adults fell 25% (from 606 to 455 per 100,000 population). A consequence of these shifts is the narrowing gap between the number of female adults charged with violent crime and the number of male adults charged: in 1986, there were 9 men charged for every woman charged. In 2005, this ratio stood at 5 to 1.

Charge rates for property crimes are decreasing

In keeping with the steady decline in property crimes since 1991, the number of females charged with property crimes has been decreasing, as has the number of males charged. As was identified earlier, when female youth and adults commit a property crime, it tends to consist of a theft other than theft

of a motor vehicle. Females tend not to commit offences of breaking and entering or motor vehicle theft, both of which are relatively serious crimes as the former carries a maximum penalty of 25 years and the latter one of 10 years. This pattern of offending is illustrated by the fact that, for both female youth and female adults, charge rates for 'theft of an item other than a motor vehicle' consistently exceed rates for 'serious property crime' over time, and that the reverse is true among both male youth and male adults (Charts 7 and 8).

For both female youth and female adults, charge rates for 'serious property crimes' have decreased slowly since the mid-1990s. The charge rate for female youth declined gradually from 1993 to 2002, moving from a charge rate of 384 per 100,000 to 341 (-11%) (Chart 7). Decreases since 2003 are consistent with alternatives to charging available under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The rate at which female adults were charged with 'serious property crimes' declined between 1993 and 2005, from 137 per 100,000 to 101 per 100,000 (-26%) (Chart 8). Charge rates for both female youth and adults females for the more prevalent offence of 'theft of an item other than a motor vehicle' have fallen more drastically than rates for 'serious property crime'. This offence, however, is more susceptible to non-reporting by the public to police, particularly if the offence is minor or the dollar value lost is below the victim's insurance deductible.

In comparison to their male counterparts, the rates at which female youth and female adults are charged with 'serious property crimes' have declined at a more conservative pace (Charts 7 and 8).

Chart 6

Although lower than the rate for men, rate at which women charged with violent offences has increased, Canada, 1986 to 2005

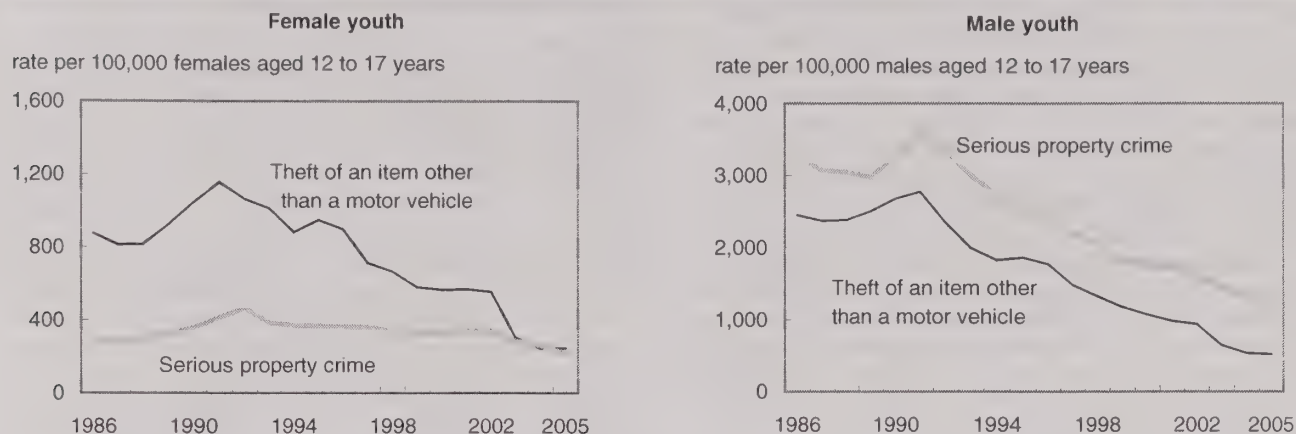


Notes: Rates are based on population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st; revised intercensal estimates for 1986 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003 and 2004, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005. For the purpose of this analysis, 'serious violent crime' was constructed by grouping UCR Survey codes for violent offences that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years or more. Specifically, the category comprises: 1st and 2nd degree murder; manslaughter; attempted murder; sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3; assault levels 2 and 3; unlawfully causing bodily harm; discharge of a firearm with intent; abduction of a person under 14; and, robbery.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Chart 7

Rates for both female and male youth charged with property crimes are declining, Canada, 1986 to 2005

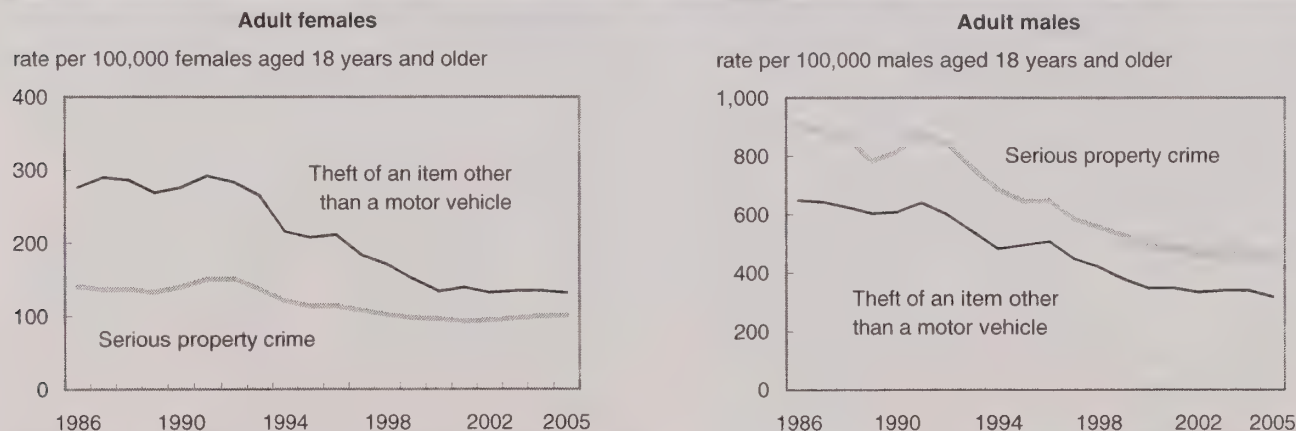


Notes: Rates are based on population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1986 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003 and 2004, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005. For the purpose of this analysis, 'serious property crime' was constructed by grouping UCR Survey codes for violent offences that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years or more. Specifically, the category comprises: breaking and entering; fraud; arson; motor vehicle theft, and; possession of stolen goods. Although the offence of 'theft of an item worth \$5,000 or more' carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, the threshold dollar amount for this offence has changed in 1985 and again in 1995 making comparisons over time invalid. All thefts other than a motor vehicle have therefore been grouped together to enable comparisons over time.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Chart 8

Charge rate for adult females for serious property crimes much lower than in the early 1990s, but has levelled off in recent years, Canada, 1986 to 2005



Notes: Rates are based on population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1986 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003 and 2004, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005. For the purpose of this analysis, 'serious property crime' was constructed by grouping UCR Survey codes for property offences that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years or more. Specifically, the category comprises: breaking and entering; fraud; arson; motor vehicle theft, and; possession of stolen goods. Although the offence of 'theft of an item worth \$5,000 or more' carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, the threshold dollar amount for this offence has changed in 1985 and again in 1995 making comparisons over time invalid. All thefts other than a motor vehicle have therefore been grouped together to enable comparisons over time.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Charges growing for offences against the administration of justice

Despite decreases in the overall rate of females charged, rates for offences against the administration of justice have been climbing. Such offences under the *Criminal Code of Canada* include bail violations, breach of probation and failure to appear in court. For instance, the rate at which female adults were charged with bail violations tripled between 1986 and 2005, moving from 33 to 103 per 100,000 population. Among youth, the rate rose from 61 to 236 per 100,000 population. Increases have also occurred for males. The charge rate for bail violations among male adults grew 82% over this time period, and it has tripled for male youth. While these offences may not directly affect the public's safety, they place a strain on Canada's justice system because individuals charged with such offences must reappear before the courts for reasons unrelated to new criminal activities (Taillon, 2006). Further, convictions for these offences are high and offenders are frequently sentenced to custody. An additional cost in both dollars and the efficiency of the justice system is therefore incurred.

adults before the criminal courts were women. Women were most often in court for property offences (32%), crimes against the person (23%) and offences against the administration of justice (18%).

Conviction rates lower for women¹⁴

In the adult court system women had their cases stayed or withdrawn¹⁵ more frequently than their male counterparts and were less frequently found guilty. For instance, in 2003/2004, 51% of all cases against women ended in a finding of guilt, compared to 59% for men (Table 4). A further 44% were stayed or withdrawn while the same was true for 34% of cases against men. Differences in conviction rates may be attributable to the fact, compared to males, that a smaller proportion of cases against females involve multiple-charges (45% versus 52%). Typically, cases involving multiple charges have higher conviction rates than cases with single charges because an accused is more likely to plead guilty on at least one charge when he or she is facing multiple charges. In addition, some jurisdictions have adult diversion programs that result in first-time offenders avoiding conviction. As indicated earlier, data suggest females are more frequently one-time offenders than males (Carrington, 2007; Savoie, 2007; Carrington et al., 2005; Thomas et al., 2002).

Females in the court system

As women account for a small proportion of persons charged with crimes, they also make up a small proportion of adults processed through the court system. In 2003/2004, 16% of

Text box 3

Female-perpetrated homicide, 1996 to 2005

Relative to other crimes, homicide, whether perpetrated by a female or a male, is a rarity in Canada. In 2005, 2 out of every 100,000 persons was a victim of homicide, and homicides have been declining since the 1970s. Females who kill are far fewer than males who kill. In 2005, females accounted for 10% of the 643 persons accused of homicide. However rare, the severity of this crime and the concern for its prevention compel us to better understand the circumstances under which it is committed. Data from 1996 to 2005 provide insight into the conditions which characterize lethal violence by females¹:

- Females who killed were less frequently reported to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at the time of the incident than their male counterparts (65% versus 71%).
- One in five females who killed were suspected by police as suffering from a mental or developmental disorder, (e.g., schizophrenia, depression, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, etc.) that may have contributed to some degree to the homicide. In comparison, such disorders were suspected with about 1 in 8 males.
- Escalation of an argument (39%) and frustration (22%) were common motives for females who killed. The one difference between women and men regarding motive is that revenge, jealousy or the settling of accounts more frequently precipitated homicides by men (27% versus 11% for women).
- Spouses and children are women's victims. Thirty percent victims of female-perpetrated homicide were a current or previous spouse or common-law partner, and an additional 28% were the woman's child. Females who kill tend not to victimize strangers (3% of victims killed by women versus 14% killed by men) or casual acquaintances (13% versus 21%).²
- For almost three-quarters (73%) of women who killed their spouse, there had been previous incidents of violence between the accused and the victim. This was the case among a smaller proportion of men who had killed their spouse (61%).

- Multiple homicides are rare among both females and males: 3% of homicides by females involved more than one victim as did 15% committed by males.
- Women accused of homicide rarely used a firearm and most often took their victim's life by stabbing or beating. Eight percent of victims of female-perpetrated homicide were shot, compared to 27% of persons killed by a male. When females did use firearms, it was most prevalent in cases of spousal homicide (14%) and homicides against other intimate partners (13%).² Victims of female-perpetrated homicide were most frequently stabbed (43%), beaten (20%) or strangled (12%).
- A criminal record was less common among women who committed homicide than men (50% versus 70%).³ Based on the most serious previous conviction, 28% of females had a criminal record for a violent offence, 10% had been convicted of property offences, 2% for drug offences and the remaining 10% for other types of offences against the *Criminal Code*, other federal statutes or provincial statutes.

1. Due to the small number of females accused of homicide each year, an analysis of a single year of data is insufficient to obtain an understanding of the characteristics associated with lethal female violence. As a result, this analysis relies on ten years of homicide data collected through the national Homicide Survey. Within this 10-year database, females accounted for 11% of the 5,463 persons 12 years and older accused of homicide. Homicide includes 1st and 2nd degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide. All analysis excludes responses of 'unknown'.
2. Homicide by relationship includes only those homicides involving one accused.
3. The Homicide Survey has been collecting data pertaining to the offender's prior criminal history since 1997 therefore analysis on criminal history includes data from 1997 to 2005. When an accused had more than one previous conviction, only the most serious conviction was recorded. The analysis excludes offenders where it was unknown whether or not they had previous convictions.

Across the different types of offences, conviction rates for women were either lower or comparable to rates for men, with two exceptions: attempted murder (17% conviction rate for women versus 12% for men) and prostitution (59% for women versus 31% for men) (Table 4). For prostitution, the proportion of multiple-charge cases against women was higher than for men (27% versus 11%).

Some of the highest conviction rates for women were for being unlawfully at large (78%), impaired driving (71%), breach of probation (70%), fraud (58%), theft (56%), disturbing the peace (54%), fail to comply with an order (53%) and robbery (52%).

Women less likely to be sentenced to prison and receive shorter sentences

Women found guilty in adult criminal court are less likely than men to receive a prison sentence and are more likely to receive probation. Females found guilty of crimes against the person in 2003/2004 were half as likely as their male counterparts to receive a prison sentence (19% versus 38%) (Table 5). The same was true for crimes against property with 24% of women and 45% of men being sentenced to custody.

In comparison to men, the lower proportion of women sentenced to custody held true regardless of the severity of the crime. For instance, in cases of major assault, meaning assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, prison sentences were handed down to one-quarter of women and nearly half of men who were found guilty (48%) (Table 5). Differences in sentencing were found with most other serious crimes such as robbery (62% versus 76%), break and enter (41% versus 61%) and fraud (20% versus 40%).

In addition, when custody was ordered, median sentence lengths were usually longer for males than females. For instance, the median sentence length for female adults found guilty of crimes against the person and sentenced to custody was 30 days compared to 60 days for males. For property offences, median terms of custody for females were also lower (30 days versus 45 days).

The lower incarceration rates and median sentence lengths for women may be attributed in part to the fact that, as mentioned above, a larger proportion of male offenders than female offenders were before the courts with multiple charges. In addition, prior criminal behaviour is a factor taken into consideration when sentences are imposed and, as previously mentioned, research indicates that female offenders are more likely than male offenders to be one-time offenders.

For prostitution and drug possession, women were more frequently incarcerated than men

Just as female offenders were more frequently found guilty of prostitution than male offenders, they were also more likely to receive a prison sentence for this offence. In 2003/2004, just under one-third (32%) of female adult offenders found guilty of prostitution were sentenced to custody (Table 5), compared to 9% of male adults. Although the rate of conviction for drug possession among women and men were similar, women were

more likely to be sent to prison. In 2003/2004, 26% of women found guilty of drug possession were sentenced to custody compared to 20% of men.

Except for property crimes, conviction rates of female and male youth were similar¹⁶

Girls were the accused in 21% of the cases that flowed through Canada's youth courts in 2003/2004, a proportion that has fluctuated very little over the previous 10 years. In 2003/2004, female youth were as frequently before the courts for crimes against the person (33%) as they were for crimes against property (34%).¹⁷ The three most common offences among females appearing in youth court were level 1 assault (18%), theft other than a motor vehicle (17%) and offences against the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (13%), which are largely offences against the administration of justice.

With the exception of property-related offences, there was little difference in conviction rates between female and male youth in 2003/2004. Overall, slightly more than half of young females accused of an offence were found guilty (53%) and 45% had their cases stayed, withdrawn or dismissed. Unlike their adult counterparts, conviction rates for crimes against the person differed little between the sexes, with the courts finding 55% of girls and 58% of boys guilty of such offences. While conviction rates were similar for most other crime categories, findings of guilt for property crimes were less frequent for girls than boys (46% versus 59%).

Sentences to custody less common for female young offenders¹⁸

Regardless of the crime, sentences to custody were less common among female than male young offenders. Overall, in 2003/2004, 16% of girls found guilty in youth court received a term of custody, compared to 24% of boys, with differences apparent across all crime categories (Table 6). In addition, when sentenced to custody, girls received, on average, a shorter sentence. For instance, girls who were sentenced to custody in 2003/2004 due to a violation against the person were, on average, sentenced to 48 days. In comparison, boys received an average of 71 days. Girls received shorter terms for virtually all violations against the person, except for assault level 1 where the average term for girls was just 3 days less than the term for boys (47 versus 50 days). With respect to property offences that resulted in a sentence of custody, average sentence lengths for girls were consistently lower than sentence lengths for boys.

Offenders can receive more than one type of sentence (e.g., a term of custody with a term of probation) and the Youth Court Survey counts all sentences handed down, not just the most serious sentence. Non-custodial sentences, such as community service, probation and fines were handed down to girls and boys at equal proportions (Table 6).

Female offenders in corrections¹⁹

Number of women in remand²⁰ has grown

Given the relatively small number of women charged with and found guilty of criminal offences, women have historically

accounted for a small proportion of the corrections population in Canada. In 2004/2005, female offenders accounted for 6% of offenders in provincial/territorial custody, 4% of offenders in federal custody, 6% in remand (a court-ordered detention of a person while he/she is awaiting further court appearances). Further, 16% of offenders on probation, parole or serving a conditional sentence in 2004/2005 were women.

Compared to men, women in the provincial/territorial correctional system are more often under community supervision (93% versus 82% for males in 2004/05) and less frequently under custodial supervision (7% versus 18% for males), a finding which stems from both offending and sentencing patterns.

Since 1995/1996, the number of women serving a sentence in a provincial/territorial institution has declined 8% while the number in remand has more than doubled and has pushed the total number of women in provincial/territorial custody up 30%. This growth in remand is not unique to the female population, but is a trend within the entire provincial/territorial corrections system.²¹

Federally sentenced women serving time for violent and drug offences

In 2006, just over half (55%) of federally sentenced women were serving time for a violent offence and one-quarter were in for drug offences. Over the 10-year period of 1997 to 2006, these proportions have changed little. In comparison, men have always predominantly been incarcerated in the federal system for violent offences. This was true for 70% of federally sentenced male offenders in 2006.

According to data from the provincial correctional systems in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, in 2004/2005, women were almost as frequently under supervision for violent offences as they were property offences (31% and 34%, respectively). In comparison, proportionally, men were more often under supervision for violent offences than property offences (32% and 24%, respectively).

Female adult offenders are more likely to be younger, single and Aboriginal than women in the general population

Compared to women in the general population, federally sentenced female offenders are more likely to be younger, single and Aboriginal. While the average age of women serving a federal sentence was 37.7 years in 2006, the average age among females aged 18 years and older in the general population has 48.1 (Statistics Canada, 2006 census). Almost half (47%) of federal female offenders were single and just over one-third (35%) were married or living in a common-law relationship prior to their incarceration. In the general population, women aged 18 years and older are much more likely to be married or living in a common-law relationship (62%) than single (21%) (Statistics Canada, 2007). While only 3% of female adults in Canada are Aboriginal, one-quarter of women serving a federal sentence were Aboriginal.

The data available from three provincial systems indicate that women in these systems were 32 years old on average,

suggesting women in the provincial system are younger than those in the federal system. Further, these data also suggest they were more likely to be single (55%) and less likely to be married or living in a common-law relationship (30%). Other data indicate that about 3 in 10 female offenders admitted to provincial/territorial sentenced custody in 2004/2005 were Aboriginal.²²

Aboriginal female offender population growing

While Aboriginal people in general are over-represented among offenders sentenced to provincial/territorial custody, over-representation is even greater among female prisoners. In 2004/2005, 30% of women serving a custodial sentence in the provincial/territorial system were Aboriginal, compared to 21% of males. Among federally sentenced women, the representation of Aboriginal women has increased steadily and significantly over the past decade rising from 15% in 1997 to 25% in 2006.

Among federally sentenced Aboriginal female offenders, there is a significant proportion who have committed violent offences. In fact, the proportion of violent offenders amongst Aboriginal females now exceeds the proportion among all male offenders serving a federal sentence. Three-quarters (75%) of Aboriginal females under federal custody have a current violent offence on record, compared to 70% of all males. Aboriginal females are more likely to be serving sentences for homicide, assault, or robbery offences, relative to non-Aboriginal women. As such, they were proportionally less likely to be serving sentences for drug offences or property-related offences.

Females in corrections are less likely than their male counterparts to have a history with the correctional system

Over the past decade, there has been a slow but steady increase in the proportion of federal female offenders with a previous federal sentence. While 10% of federal female offenders in 1997 could be classified as 'repeat' federal offenders, this was true for about 15% in 2006. Despite this growth, federally sentenced female offenders are still less likely than male offenders (30%) to have had a previous federal sentence.

Data also indicate that females in the provincial corrections system are less likely than their male counterparts to have served a provincial sentence in the past. According to data from Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, 23% of females who were released from adult correctional supervision in 2002/2003 returned to the same jurisdiction's correctional services system within 2 years. The same was true for 32% of males (Beattie, 2006). As mentioned earlier, other research shows that females were less likely than males to have previous adult and/or youth court convictions (Carrington, 2005).

Federal female offenders were more likely than males to have treatment needs in the areas of family/marital relationships and education/employment

Since 2000, there has been a significant change in the overall proportion of federally sentenced females who are at 'high risk' of re-offending and who have 'high needs', according to

standard evaluations that are conducted regularly while they are in custody.²³ Part of the intake assessment process for federal offenders involves the identification of the offender's criminogenic 'needs'. More specifically, the assessment tool considers a wide assortment of case-specific aspects of the offender's personality and life circumstances. This information is then grouped into seven domains: employment/education, marital/family, associates/social interaction, substance abuse, community functioning (e.g., housing, financial management), personal/emotional orientation (e.g., victimization history, mental health), and attitude. At intake and at approximate six month intervals throughout the offender's sentence, assessors rate the offender's level of need in these domains.

Overall, the proportion of females in federal corrections categorized as 'high needs' has doubled from 26% of the population in 1997 to 50% in 2006. Differences between the genders exist with respect to needs. Females were significantly more likely to have treatment needs in the areas of employment/education (63% versus 57%) and marital/family (52% versus 43%), while males had more intervention needs in the areas of associates/social interaction (66% versus 61%), attitudes (64% versus 35%), substance abuse (69% versus 62%), and personal/emotional orientation (87% versus 79%).²⁴

Proportion of federal female offenders at risk of re-offending reached one-third

The proportion of federal female offenders categorized as 'high risk' of re-offending increased from 19% to 33% during the same 10-year period. Scores for estimating levels of risk are based on prior criminal behaviour and other indicators of compliance, such as failures while on parole or mandatory supervision.

Data sources

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The UCR Survey was developed in 1962 with the cooperation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation from all separate federal and provincial and municipal police services in Canada. There are currently two levels of detail collected by the UCR Survey:

Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate UCR survey includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim or incident characteristics. Coverage of the UCR Survey in 2005 was at 99.9% of the caseload of all police services in Canada.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The incident-based UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police

services switch over from the aggregate to the incident based survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail. In 2005, 122 police services in 9 provinces supplied data for the complete year to the UCR2 survey and represent approximately 71% of the population of Canada. The coverage provided by these services in the 2005 database is distributed as follows: 47.5% from Ontario, 33.0% from Quebec, 8.0% from Alberta, 3.8% from British Columbia, 2.8% from Manitoba, 2.0% from Saskatchewan, 1.4% from Nova Scotia, 0.9% from Newfoundland and Labrador, and 0.6% from New Brunswick. With the exception of Ontario and Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police services. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national or provincial level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

UCR2 linked database

Using police-reported data from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, criminal incident records for the same accused persons were linked over eleven reporting years (1995 to 2005). The file enables analysis of the sequence of police contacts by female offenders aged 12 years and older who had at least one violation against the *Criminal Code* or other federal statute. Coverage for the linked file includes 64 police services in 6 provinces. Police services included in this subset are primarily the major urban police services in New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia and most police services in Quebec. The file is not a representative sample of females apprehended by police. Combined, these 64 police services represent 44% of the national volume of crime. Because of recent transitions to the UCR2 Survey, the following major police services were excluded from the 11-year linked data file: the RCMP, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Winnipeg Police Service.

Matching of records was done using four variables that together attempt to identify a unique individual: An encrypted code based on the accused person's name, date of birth, sex and province of the offence. In order to reduce the instances of 'false positives', meaning matching of records where the records actually represent different individuals, methodologists at Statistics Canada conducted an analysis of the probability of false positives and constructed quality codes for each record based on 'match efficiency', meaning the expected absence of false positives. Records that had a match efficiency rates of 95% or greater were included in the analysis, meaning that among those, less than 5% of matches are expected to be false positives. These records that were selected as sufficient quality for use accounted for 89% of the total records.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. It provides more detailed information than the UCR2.

Adult Criminal Court Survey

The purpose of the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) is to provide a national database of statistical information on the

processing of cases through the adult criminal court system. The survey consists of a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges dealt with in adult criminal courts. The ACCS represents approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Some limitations on coverage of the survey should be noted. Manitoba is not included in the survey for any year. Data from Nunavut were included as part of the Northwest Territories prior to April 1, 1999; however, Nunavut has not reported to the ACCS since the creation of the territory. Also, some court locations in Quebec are not included. Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately one quarter of *Criminal Code* charges in that province) is not yet collected. Finally, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon, no data are provided from superior courts.

The absence of data from all but six superior court jurisdictions may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences imposed across Canada. The reason for this is that some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts.

The analysis in this report regarding offences in court is based on the **most serious offence**. When a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case (since a case is identified by a single charge). In such multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to the least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) acquitted, 4) stay of proceeding, 5) withdrawn, dismissed and discharged 6) not criminally responsible 7) other, 8) transfer of court jurisdiction. In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to an offence seriousness scale, which is based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on guilty charges between 1994/1995 and 2000/2001. If two charges are tied according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., prison, probation, and fine) is considered. If a tie still exists, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

The **most serious sentence** rule applies where more than one sentence is associated with the Most Serious Offence in a case. Sentences are ranked from most to least serious as follows: Prison, conditional sentence, probation, fine, and other (restitution, absolute or conditional discharge, suspended sentence, other).

Youth Court Survey

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of *Criminal Code* and *Other Federal Statute* offences heard and completed in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence.

Adult Corrections Surveys

With the exception of the analysis on female federal offenders, data in the *Juristat* on persons in the correctional system come

from the Key Indicator Report (KIR) and the Adult Corrections Survey (ACS), two aggregate surveys conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The KIR is a census survey that collects monthly average counts of adults and youth in custody under the responsibility of provincial/territorial and federal correctional services as well as the month-end counts of offenders under the responsibility of provincial/territorial probation services. The ACS is also a census survey which collects data to provide indicators on the nature and characteristics of persons admitted to correctional services. Types of characteristics collected include sex, types of offences, age and ethnicity (i.e., Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal).²⁵ The ACS collects other types of data on corrections resources, expenditure and personnel, the number of correctional facilities and their capacity.

For more information on these and other justice-related surveys, visit www.statcan.ca and click Definitions, data sources and method > List by subject > Crime and justice.

Endnotes

1. 'Serious violent crime' comprises murder; manslaughter; attempted murder; sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3; major assault; unlawfully causing bodily harm; discharge firearm with intent; abduction of a person under 14, and; robbery.
2. 'Serious property crime' comprises breaking and entering; fraud; arson; motor vehicle theft, and; possession of stolen goods.
3. See, for instance, Belknap, Joanne (ed). 2001. *Women, Gender, Crime and Justice*. Wardsworth/Thompson Learning: California.
4. The analysis of 2005 data is based on non-representative data from 122 police services reporting to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey. These police services represent 71% of the population of Canada (see the Data sources section of this report for more information). The analysis excludes offenders where the sex and/or age are unknown and where the age of the accused was coded as less than 12 years.
5. Offences against the administration of justice include failure to appear, breach of probation, unlawfully at large, bail violations and 'other' administration of justice offences.
6. To determine the relationship of the accused to the victim, this section analyses only victims who were victimized by a single accused. Victims victimized by more than one accused account for 64% of all victims.
7. The analysis of injury and weapon causing injury excludes Toronto as details on types of weapons use are unavailable. Consequently the analysis is based on data from a subset of 121 police services that represent 63% of the population of Canada.
8. For the remaining 4% of victims, the extent of injuries could not be determined by the attending police officer though weapons or physical force were used against the victim.
9. For 3% of victims, the type of weapon used, including whether or not it was physical force, was unknown.
10. For 3% of victims, the type of weapon used, including whether or not it was physical force, was unknown.
11. Methodological constraints exist that limit this analysis to females only and do not permit comparisons with males. For more information about the file used for this analysis, see the Data sources section.
12. For the purpose of this analysis, 'serious violent crime' was constructed by grouping aggregate UCR Survey codes for violent offences that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years or more. Specifically, the category comprises: 1st and 2nd degree murder; manslaughter; attempted murder; sexual assault levels 1, 2 and 3; assault levels 2 and 3; unlawfully causing bodily harm; discharge of a firearm with intent; abduction of a person under 14; and, robbery.

13. In 1983, changes to the *Criminal Code* affected the classification of assaults, sexual assaults and abduction. Further, in 1986, the *Juvenile Delinquents Act* was replaced by the *Young Offenders Act*, a change which altered the way police and the criminal justice system dealt with young offenders. Due to these two legislative changes, trend analysis begins at 1986 to ensure data are comparable from year to year.
14. Analyses of adult court data use counts that are based on the most serious offence in the case and the most serious sentence. See Data sources section for details.
15. Includes stay of proceedings, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry. These decisions all refer to the court stopping or interrupting criminal proceedings against the accused.
16. This section provides data from the Youth Court Survey (YCS), a census of *Criminal Code* offences heard and completed in youth courts for persons aged 12 to 17 years of age at the time of the offence. Analyses of youth court data use counts that are based on the most serious offence in the case.
17. Analysis of police-reported data showed that, among female young offenders, a higher proportion had been apprehended by police for property offences than for crimes against the person. It is likely that the more similar proportions among female young offenders in court are due to police having diverted the less serious property crimes away from the court system.
18. Analysis of sentences are not based on the most serious sentence in a case, but examine all types of sentences because specific YCJA sentencing details (e.g., reprimands, deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision) are not discernable from the Youth Court Survey data collection format (i.e., they are collected through the sentencing category 'Other'). Therefore, comparisons with sentencing in Adult Criminal Court, which is based on the most serious sentence, should not be made.
19. The information on federally-sentenced women in this section was provided by Kelley Blanchette of Correctional Service Canada (CSC). Data in this section were drawn from CSC's Offender Management System (OMS) on snap-shot day (March 1). Profile data are based on the 2006 snapshot day while time series analysis is based on a series of one-day snapshots for ten consecutive years (1997 to 2006). All analyses include women in federal custody, as well as those under federal supervision in the community (i.e., day or full parole, or statutory release). All differences are statistically significant unless otherwise stated.
20. Remand is a court ordered detention of a person while awaiting further court appearances.
21. For more information on the growth in the remand population, possible explanations for it and how it impacts the correctional services system see Johnson (2003) and Beattie (2006).
22. Includes all jurisdictions, except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.
23. As a part of the comprehensive offender intake assessment process, all federal offenders are evaluated along a global continuum of risk and need (low, medium, or high). Re-assessments occur at approximate 6-month intervals thereafter, throughout the offender's incarceration and his or her period of community supervision. As of the March 1, 2006 snapshot date, each offender's most recent overall risk and need evaluation was drawn from the Offender Management System data base.
24. Presently, information on the needs of offenders in the provincial system is collected through Statistics Canada's Integrated Correctional Services Survey, but the information is presently only reported by Saskatchewan. It is worth noting that, according to findings from 2004/2005, similar differences existed between the needs of females and males in Saskatchewan's correctional system. A higher proportion of females in sentenced custody had medium to high needs in the areas of employment (65% versus 57%), family/marital (61% versus 55%), and personal/emotional (23% versus 14%).
25. The ACS is being replaced by the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) which is a person-based survey that collects detailed information on each person admitted to correctional services. Information collected includes a variety of socio-demographic characteristics beyond age and sex, including education, marital and employment status. Data from the ICSS are currently available from Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC).

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Table 1

Number and rate of youth and adults accused by police, by sex, reported to a subset of police services, 2005

Offence type	Total accused	Female accused				Male accused			
		Total	Total	Youth	Adult	Total	Total	Youth	Adult
		number	number	rate		number		rate	
Total accused	517,254	109,055	1,080	3,182	885	408,199	4,193	8,613	3,743
Total – violations against the person	167,917	30,747	304	879	251	137,170	1,409	2,449	1,303
Homicide	400	35	0	0	0	365	4	4	4
Attempted murder	544	68	1	1	1	476	5	3	5
Robbery	11,953	1,264	13	57	8	10,689	110	370	83
Sexual assaults	7,429	182	2	6	1	7,247	74	152	67
Other sexual offences	732	22	0	1	0	710	7	17	6
Major assaults	33,350	6,448	64	144	56	26,902	276	509	253
Common assault (level 1)	73,450	15,670	155	483	125	57,780	594	950	557
Uttering threats	26,478	4,753	47	146	38	21,725	223	343	211
Criminal harassment	9,243	1,823	18	36	16	7,420	76	55	78
Other crimes against the person ¹	4,338	482	5	6	5	3,856	40	46	39
Total – violations against property	212,435	51,509	510	1,834	387	160,926	1,653	4,664	1,346
Motor vehicle theft	11,177	1,252	12	61	8	9,925	102	352	77
Other theft	87,894	29,409	291	1,215	205	58,485	601	1,640	495
Break and enter	29,084	2,522	25	94	19	26,562	273	795	220
Fraud	28,125	8,435	84	71	85	19,690	202	145	208
Mischief	27,538	3,586	36	167	23	23,952	246	1,138	155
Possession of stolen property	27,395	6,163	61	218	46	21,232	218	524	187
Arson	1,222	142	1	8	1	1,080	11	71	5
Total – violations against the administration of justice	98,562	18,836	186	342	172	79,726	819	943	806
Failure to appear	16,118	4,037	40	70	37	12,081	124	117	125
Breach of probation	22,914	3,726	37	30	38	19,188	197	133	204
Unlawfully at large	3,168	345	3	10	3	2,823	29	58	26
Bail violations	53,331	9,903	98	213	87	43,428	446	603	430
Other administration of justice	3,031	825	8	18	7	2,206	23	34	22
Total – other Criminal Code violations	38,340	7,963	79	128	74	30,377	312	557	287
Weapons	9,648	1,018	10	19	9	8,630	89	242	73
Prostitution	3,863	1,880	19	5	20	1,983	20	2	22
Disturbing the peace	7,421	1,536	15	38	13	5,885	60	83	58
Counterfeiting currency	1,204	226	2	5	2	978	10	22	9
Threatening/harassing phone calls	3,645	1,400	14	21	13	2,245	23	25	23
Residual Criminal Code	12,559	1,903	19	40	17	10,656	109	183	102

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Other crimes against the person include, kidnapping, abductions, extortion, assault against peace public officer and other assaults.

Notes: Excludes accused whose age and/or sex were unknown. Youth includes accused 12 to 17 years of age. Adults include accused 18 years of age and older. Includes persons charged and persons against whom there was sufficient evidence to lay a charge, but were not charged for various reasons (e.g., police discretion, diplomatic immunity, referred to a diversion program, complainant did not want to lay charges, etc.). Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police services representing approximately 71% of the population of Canada in 2005. Rate per 100,000 population for the geographic areas policed by the UCR2 respondents, based on populations provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 2

Percentage distribution of types of crimes by youth and adults accused, by sex, reported to a subset of police services, 2005

Offence type	Female accused				Male accused			
	Total	Total	Youth	Adult	Total	Total	Youth	Adult
	number		percentage		number		percentage	
Total accused	109,055	100	100	100	408,199	100	100	100
Total – violations against the person	30,747	28	28	28	137,170	34	28	35
Homicide	35	0	0	0	365	0	0	0
Attempted murder	68	0	0	0	476	0	0	0
Robbery	1,264	1	2	1	10,689	3	4	2
Sexual assaults	182	0	0	0	7,247	2	2	2
Other sexual offences	22	0	0	0	710	0	0	0
Major assault	6,448	6	5	6	26,903	7	6	7
Common assault (level 1)	15,670	14	15	14	57,780	14	11	15
Uttering threats	4,753	4	5	4	21,725	5	4	6
Criminal harassment	1,823	2	1	2	7,420	2	1	2
Other crimes against the person ¹	482	0	0	1	3,856	1	1	1
Total – violations against property	51,509	47	58	44	160,926	39	54	36
Motor vehicle theft	1,252	1	2	1	9,925	2	4	2
Other theft	29,409	27	38	23	58,485	14	19	13
Break and enter	2,522	2	3	2	26,562	7	9	6
Fraud	8,435	8	2	10	19,690	5	2	6
Mischief	3,586	3	5	3	23,952	6	13	4
Possession of stolen property	6,163	6	7	5	21,232	5	6	5
Arson	142	0	0	0	1,080	0	1	0
Total – violations against the administration of justice	18,836	17	11	19	79,726	20	11	22
Failure to appear	4,037	4	2	4	12,081	3	1	3
Breach of probation	3,726	3	1	4	19,188	5	2	5
Unlawfully at large	345	0	0	0	2,823	1	1	1
Bail violations	9,903	9	7	10	43,428	11	7	11
Other administration of justice	825	1	1	1	2,206	1	0	1
Total – other Criminal Code violations	7,963	7	4	8	30,377	7	6	8
Weapons	1,018	1	1	1	8,630	2	3	2
Prostitution	1,880	2	0	2	1,983	0	0	1
Disturbing the peace	1,536	1	1	1	5,885	1	1	2
Counterfeiting currency	226	0	0	0	978	0	0	0
Threatening/harassing phone calls	1,400	1	1	1	2,245	1	0	1
Residual Criminal Code	1,903	2	1	2	10,656	3	2	3

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Other crimes against the person include, kidnapping, abductions, extortion, assault against peace public officer and other assaults.

Notes: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Excludes accused whose age and/or sex were unknown. Youth includes accused 12 to 17 years of age. Adults include accused 18 years of age and older. Includes persons charged and persons against whom there was sufficient evidence to lay a charge, but were not charged for various reasons (e.g., police discretion, diplomatic immunity, referred to a diversion program, complainant did not want to lay charges, etc.). Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police services representing approximately 71% of the population of Canada in 2005. Rate per 100,000 population for the geographic areas policed by the UCR2 respondents, based on populations provided by Demography Division, Statistics Canada. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 3

Victims of crimes against the person by sex of the accused and relationship of the accused to the victim, reported to a subset of police services, 2005

Relationship of accused to victim	Proportion of victims where the accused was			
	Female		Male	
	Youth	Adult	Youth	Adult
	percentage of victims			
Total	100	100	100	100
Family members	20	38	19	37
Total spouse	1	23	1	26
Spouse	1	15	0	18
Ex-spouse	0	8	0	8
Total other family	19	15	18	11
Parent ¹	2	7	2	4
Child ¹	11	2	8	2
Sibling ²	4	3	6	3
Extended family ³	2	3	2	2
Friends/acquaintances	67	45	63	41
Authority figure	3	1	3	1
Current or ex-boy/girlfriend	3	10	3	11
Friend	7	4	5	3
Business relationship	9	6	7	6
Criminal relationship	0	0	0	1
Casual acquaintance	45	24	44	18
Stranger	13	17	19	22

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Includes some cases where age or the relationship between the accused and the victim may have been miscoded.

2. Sibling includes natural, step, half, foster or adopted brother or sister.

3. Extended family includes others related to the victim either by blood or by marriage, e.g. aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws.

Notes: Crimes against the person refer to offences that involve death, harm or the threat of harm to an individual, as well as crime resulting in the deprivation of freedom. Traffic offences resulting in death or harm are excluded. Examples of crimes against the person are: homicide, attempted murder, conspire to commit murder, sexual assaults, assaults, kidnapping and abduction, robbery, utter threats and criminal harassment. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Excludes incidents where the age or sex of the accused was unknown or the relationship between the two was unknown. Also excludes incidents where the age of the accused was under 12 years. Includes only those victims where one accused was involved in the incident. Data are not nationally representative. Based on data from 122 police services representing approximately 71% of the population of Canada in 2005.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 4

Cases in adult criminal court by decision and by sex of the accused, 2003/2004

Most serious offence	Female accused					Male accused				
	Total cases	Conviction rates (guilty)	Stayed/ withdrawn	Acquitted	Other ¹	Total cases	Conviction rates (guilty)	Stayed/ withdrawn	Acquitted	Other ¹
	number	percentage	percentage			number	percentage	percentage		
Total offences	68,151	51	44	2	3	369,687	59	34	3	4
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	54,215	50	45	2	2	326,439	58	36	3	3
Crimes against the person	15,954	41	51	5	3	101,188	50	40	6	5
Homicide	56	21	38	2	39	469	28	35	3	35
Attempted murder	47	17	47	2	34	361	12	58	4	26
Robbery	487	52	40	2	6	5,331	54	35	2	9
Sexual assault	43	23	70	2	5	4,385	38	44	7	11
Other sexual offences	50	30	50	8	12	2,327	36	43	8	13
Major assault	4,384	44	47	6	3	21,884	50	40	6	4
Common assault	8,000	42	53	3	2	40,650	54	39	5	2
Uttering threats	2,066	37	48	10	5	19,754	46	39	10	4
Criminal harassment	364	31	57	7	5	3,308	48	40	7	4
Other crimes against persons	457	30	55	6	9	2,719	33	52	6	9
Crimes against property	21,946	52	45	1	2	80,513	64	31	1	3
Theft	11,064	56	42	1	1	29,118	70	28	1	2
Break and enter	928	49	44	3	4	12,157	67	27	2	4
Fraud	5,508	58	38	1	3	13,403	61	33	1	5
Mischief	1,315	48	49	2	2	9,758	61	35	2	1
Possess stolen property	2,957	32	64	1	3	15,066	57	38	2	3
Other property crimes	174	49	43	3	6	1,011	55	37	2	6
Administration of justice	11,988	58	40	1	2	68,860	62	35	1	2
Fail to appear	2,160	46	52	0	2	9,675	46	51	0	2
Breach of probation	3,803	70	27	1	2	24,383	69	27	2	2
Unlawfully at large	302	78	20	1	1	2,826	77	20	1	2
Fail to comply with order	5,093	53	45	1	1	30,201	60	37	1	2
Other administration of justice	630	55	42	1	2	1,775	58	37	2	3
Other Criminal Code	4,327	51	44	1	4	25,291	56	37	2	5
Weapons	480	39	57	1	3	5,838	57	38	2	4
Prostitution	1,058	59	39	1	1	1,271	31	66	1	2
Disturbing the peace	396	54	44	1	1	2,402	60	39	1	0
Residual Criminal Code	2,393	50	43	2	6	15,780	57	34	2	7
Criminal Code traffic	7,242	71	24	4	1	50,587	69	25	5	2
Impaired driving	6,385	71	24	4	1	41,458	69	24	5	1
Other Criminal Code traffic	857	68	28	2	2	9,129	70	26	2	2
Other federal statute	6,694	40	52	2	6	43,248	54	37	2	8
Drug possession	1,842	37	57	0	6	13,903	39	52	0	9
Drug trafficking	2,996	31	62	1	6	12,781	47	45	1	7
Youth Criminal Justice Act	165	60	39	1	0	1,089	61	37	1	1
Residual federal statutes	1,691	59	30	6	5	15,475	72	17	3	8

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. 'Other' includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data, the other decision category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

Notes: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Excludes cases where the sex of the accused was not recorded or where the accused was a company. Excludes 77,812 cases, or 15%, in which the decision was coded as unknown. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 5

Guilty cases in adult criminal courts, by most serious sentence for the most serious offence in the case, by sex of the offender, Canada, 2003/2004

Most serious offence	Female offenders						Male offenders					
	Total convictions	Most serious sentence					Total convictions	Most serious sentence				
		Prison	Conditional sentence	Probation	Fine	Other ¹		Prison	Conditional sentence	Probation	Fine	Other ¹
number		percentage		percentage		number		percentage		percentage		
Total offences	34,691	26	7	40	24	4	215,447	38	5	29	26	3
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	26,909	29	7	46	13	5	157,421	43	4	35	14	3
Crimes against the person	6,469	19	6	64	4	6	49,589	38	6	50	4	3
Homicide	12	75	17	8	0	0	122	93	2	3	0	2
Attempted murder	6	50	0	50	0	0	40	83	0	15	0	3
Robbery	247	62	12	26	0	0	2,835	76	7	16	0	1
Sexual assault	10	40	10	40	10	0	1,636	46	18	33	1	2
Other sexual offences	15	27	20	53	0	0	828	47	20	31	0	1
Major assault	1,886	26	10	56	5	4	10,698	48	9	37	5	2
Common assault	3,286	12	3	72	5	8	21,834	26	4	61	5	4
Uttering threats	762	21	4	67	2	5	9,122	37	4	53	3	3
Criminal harassment	111	10	5	80	0	5	1,588	33	6	59	0	2
Other crimes against persons	134	18	12	63	2	5	886	51	8	37	1	3
Crimes against property	11,402	24	10	48	12	5	51,501	45	5	34	13	3
Theft	6,148	24	7	46	17	6	20,184	44	4	31	18	3
Break and enter	441	41	9	45	2	2	8,051	61	8	29	1	1
Fraud	3,156	20	17	52	6	4	8,191	40	9	37	11	3
Mischief	625	16	2	62	11	9	5,955	20	2	58	14	6
Possess stolen property	947	34	6	45	12	2	8,573	53	5	26	14	2
Other property crimes	85	28	14	51	4	4	547	36	10	39	11	4
Crimes against the administration of justice	6,850	47	4	28	18	3	42,251	52	2	19	24	2
Fail to appear	966	49	4	22	22	3	4,428	52	2	14	29	2
Breach of probation	2,627	50	4	28	17	2	16,786	52	3	21	23	1
Unlawfully at large	236	79	4	11	6	0	2,159	84	1	6	9	1
Fail to comply with order	2,678	45	4	28	20	3	17,857	50	2	19	26	2
Other administration of justice	343	18	9	54	15	4	1,021	37	4	33	21	5
Other Criminal Code	2,188	25	4	42	21	9	14,080	33	3	35	23	6
Weapons	186	26	5	51	13	5	3,290	33	4	35	23	5
Prostitution	622	32	1	38	18	10	393	9	3	41	33	14
Disturbing the peace	215	8	0	57	26	9	1,442	16	1	41	34	8
Residual Criminal Code	1,165	24	5	40	23	8	8,955	37	4	33	21	5
Criminal Code traffic	5,130	8	2	10	79	0	34,923	19	2	7	71	0
Impaired driving	4,552	6	1	9	83	0	28,585	14	1	7	79	0
Other Criminal Code traffic	578	25	11	20	43	1	6,338	46	6	9	38	1
Other federal statute – total	2,652	25	15	27	29	5	23,103	25	9	19	42	6
Drug possession	680	26	3	35	30	6	5,445	20	2	24	49	6
Drug trafficking	874	36	42	15	6	1	5,865	45	32	11	10	1
Youth Criminal Justice Act	98	23	3	39	32	3	664	37	3	20	37	2
Residual federal statutes	1,000	15	0	30	47	8	11,129	16	0	21	55	8

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1. 'Other' decisions includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data, the other decision category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

Notes: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Excludes cases where the sex of the accused was not recorded or where the accused was a company. In 2003/2004, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec. Excludes 1,852 cases in which the most serious sentence received was coded as unknown. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. Adult Criminal Court Survey data are not reported by Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut and superior courts in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 6

Youth court cases with convictions, by type of sentence and by sex of the offender, Canada, 2003/2004

Most serious offence	Female youth						Male youth					
	Total convicted cases	Sentence					Total convicted cases	Sentence				
		Custody	Community service	Probation	Fine	Other ¹		Custody	Community service	Probation	Fine	Other ¹
	number	percentage					number	percentage				
Total offences	6,283	16	26	65	4	38	26,404	24	27	67	5	38
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	6,150	16	26	65	3	37	25,765	25	27	68	4	37
Crimes against the person	2,714	17	23	73	1	38	8,971	26	24	76	2	43
Homicide and attempted murder ²	4	50	50	75	0	50	26	50	12	31	0	50
Robbery	183	30	21	78	0	56	1,179	48	26	79	1	60
Sexual assault	7	14	29	86	0	14	551	21	14	86	0	39
Other sexual offences	8	25	0	75	0	13	267	16	13	88	1	44
Major assault	604	23	25	78	1	43	2,058	29	27	78	2	48
Common assault	1,553	12	23	71	2	37	3,469	19	25	72	2	37
Uttering threats	310	18	17	78	1	29	1,190	23	20	74	1	34
Criminal harassment	18	17	17	83	0	28	92	21	24	79	0	47
Other crimes against persons	27	22	30	59	0	44	139	31	32	78	2	50
Crimes against property	2,321	11	31	62	5	39	12,219	21	33	68	4	35
Theft	1,164	10	33	58	6	38	4,070	18	32	62	7	36
Break and enter	358	18	34	79	1	33	3,954	26	35	78	1	33
Fraud	224	13	29	70	4	46	495	18	30	71	7	40
Mischief	227	3	33	55	4	52	1,408	7	35	60	6	48
Possess stolen property	332	13	23	61	6	31	2,078	28	29	66	4	28
Other property crimes	16	6	19	69	6	31	214	14	36	75	4	36
Crimes against the administration of justice	881	30	19	48	5	26	2,853	39	18	41	8	23
Fail to appear	132	27	20	40	6	30	302	26	15	34	15	27
Breach of probation	12	25	8	67	8	25	71	23	17	51	15	17
Unlawfully at large	131	73	2	27	1	15	652	81	8	17	2	12
Fail to comply with order	505	24	20	50	6	26	1,618	26	22	49	9	28
Other administration of justice	101	13	34	69	0	31	210	36	20	60	5	16
Other Criminal Code	234	13	27	58	6	41	1,722	20	25	63	5	42
Weapons	54	7	37	76	0	54	642	20	23	64	4	57
Prostitution	6	33	0	100	0	0	5	40	0	40	0	80
Disturbing the peace	35	9	11	54	6	43	105	4	20	49	20	35
Residual Criminal Code	139	16	29	50	8	37	970	22	27	64	5	33
Criminal Code traffic	133	4	24	47	44	81	639	9	21	41	51	75
Impaired driving	89	1	22	35	57	94	345	1	14	23	75	92
Other Criminal Code traffic	44	9	27	70	16	55	294	19	29	61	22	54
Other federal statute total	1,612	22	29	46	9	25	5,885	22	32	47	12	30
Drug possession	95	4	36	46	9	60	672	4	35	44	18	50
Drug trafficking	87	9	45	74	3	61	807	13	44	82	5	63
Youth Criminal Justice Act	1,295	26	27	47	8	18	3,896	28	29	45	11	19
Residual federal statutes	135	10	30	15	22	37	510	16	26	15	26	33

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Other sentences include reprimand, absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counselling programs, deferred custody and supervision, attendance at non-residential program, intensive support and supervision, and conditional discharge.

2. For reasons related to confidentiality, the small numbers in the offence categories of homicide and attempted murder have been grouped together.

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100. Excludes cases where the sex of the accused was not recorded or where the accused was a company.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Firearms and Violent Crime

by Mia Dauvergne and Leonardo De Socio

Highlights

- Police reported 8,105 victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2006. The rate of firearm-related victimization remained stable for the fourth consecutive year.
- The large majority of police-reported violent crimes do not involve a firearm. In 2006, a firearm was used against 2.4% of victims of violent crime. Physical force and threatening behaviour were much more common, accounting for three-quarters of all victimizations.
- As with the overall trend, the rates of firearm-related crime among major crime categories, such as homicide, attempted murder and robbery, have remained stable in recent years.
- Victims of robbery and assault accounted for about three-quarters of the total number of firearm-related victimizations in 2006. Although the incidence of attempted murder and homicide was much lower, a firearm was used against approximately one-third of victims of these offences, substantially higher than the proportions of robbery (14%) and assault (1%).
- Similar to the trend in violent crime in general, firearm-related violent crime rates were higher in western Canada than in the east. The 2006 rates reported in Saskatchewan and Manitoba were 2 to 3 times higher than those in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.
- The rates of firearm-related violent crime in 2006 were highest in the larger census metropolitan areas of Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto and lowest in the smaller areas of Trois-Rivières and Sherbrooke.
- The rate of youth accused of firearm-related violent crime increased in 3 of the past 4 years. Year-to-year fluctuations in the rate of youth accused were driven primarily by incidents of firearm-related robberies.
- Persons convicted of a firearm-related violent offence were sentenced to an average of 4.2 years in prison, double the average custodial sentence length for those convicted of a non-firearm violent offence.

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Introduction

Firearm-related violent crime has received considerable attention in recent years. In October 2007, the federal government's Speech from the Throne identified "tackling crime", particularly violent crime involving firearms, as one of its five key priorities.

Using data from Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) and Homicide Surveys, this *Juristat* examines the prevalence of firearm-related violent crime in Canada at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. It presents the incidence and trends in overall firearm violence and the characteristics of those offences most often committed with a firearm. It also compares the incidence of firearm-related homicide in Canada to that in other countries. Finally, data from the Integrated Criminal Courts Survey is used to compare court processing and sentencing outcomes between firearm and non-firearm violent offences.

Firearm use in violent crime stable

The vast majority of violent crime in Canada is not committed with a firearm. According to 2006 data reported by police to the UCR Survey, most violent crime (75%) was committed by physical force or threats, without the use of any weapon. Weapons were used against 18% of victims of violent crimes, with knives (6.2%) and clubs or blunt instruments (3.0%) being the most common. A firearm was used against 2.4% of all victims (Table 1).

Police reported 8,105 victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2006, representing a rate of 27.5 per 100,000 population. Robbery (49%) and assault (29%) were the most common violations, accounting for about three-quarters of the total number of firearm-related violent victimizations.

While attempted murder and homicide represented a small number of all firearm-related crime, these offences were much more likely to be committed with a firearm compared to robbery and assault. Approximately one-third of victims of attempted murder (36%) and homicide (31%) had a firearm used against them, compared to 14% of robbery victims and 1% of victims of assault (Chart 1).

Trend data show that the rate of firearm use in violent crime has remained stable since 2003 (Chart 2). The overall rate of firearm-related violent crime was driven primarily by the use of handguns, which have accounted for about two-thirds of all firearm-related violent crimes each year since 1998.

Not only has the overall firearm-related violent crime rate remained stable in recent years, but the use of firearms to commit specific violent offences, such as homicide, attempted murder, robbery, forcible confinement and assault has also remained stable when compared to previous years.

Homicides committed with a firearm stable over past ten years

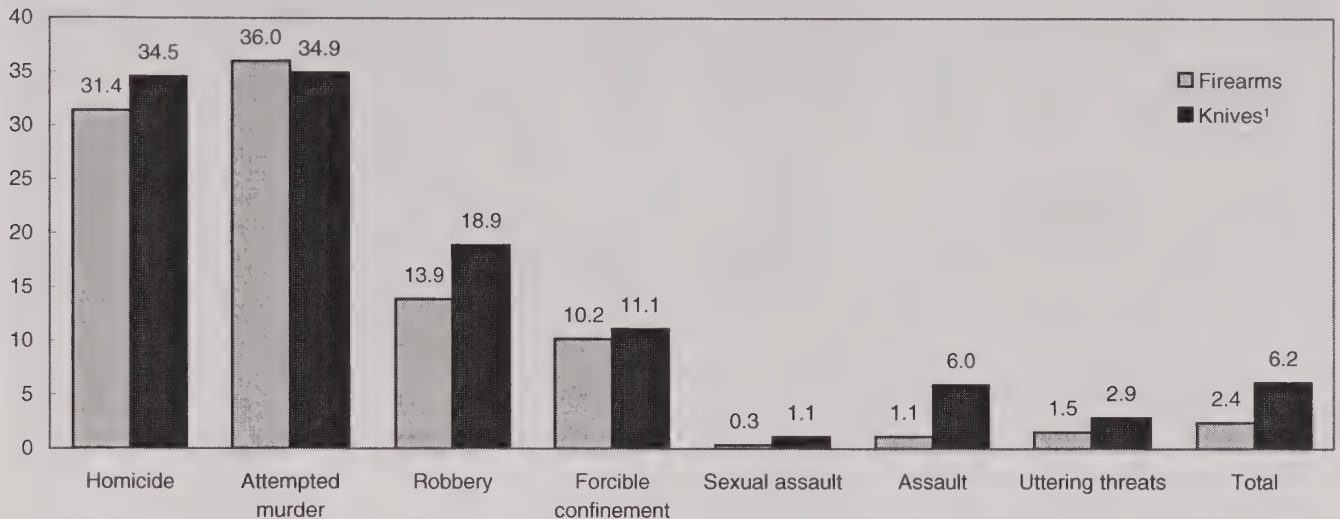
There were 190 homicides committed with a firearm in 2006, accounting for 31% of the total number of homicides. The rate of 0.6 victims per 100,000 population was 16% lower than in 2005 and the same as the previous 10-year average.

The long-term trend in firearm-related homicides shows that the rate steadily declined from the 1970s to 1998 and has remained relatively stable since (Table 2). The peak of 1.3 in 1975 was more than double the rate in 2006.

Chart 1

Violent crime by selected offence and type of weapon, 2006

percentage of total victims



1. Knives include other piercing and cutting instruments such as hatchets and razor blades.

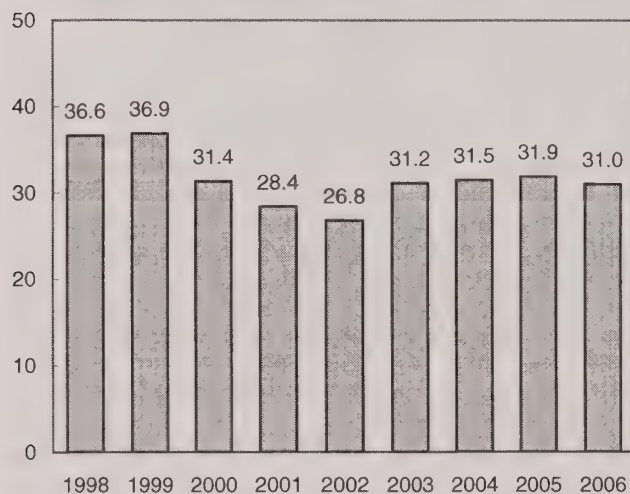
Note: Homicide data reflect 100% coverage; other violent crime data, including total firearm-related violent crime represent 90% of the population of Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide and Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Chart 2

Firearm-related violent crime, 1998 to 2006

rate of victims per 100,000 population



Notes: Crime data reflect victim counts from the UCR2 Trend database representing 51% of the population of Canada. Data is not nationally representative.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey (Trend file).

The decline in the firearm-related homicide rate can be largely explained by a decrease in homicides involving rifles or shotguns (Chart 3). The number of homicides committed with a rifle/shotgun fell from 183 victims in 1975 to 36 victims in 2006, representing an 86% decrease in the rate (from 0.8 to 0.1 per 100,000 population).

The rate of handgun use, however, has remained comparatively stable. Although the number of victims killed with a handgun in 2006 was greater than in 1975, the rate was almost the same in both years (0.33 and 0.38 respectively).

The relative stability in the handgun homicide rate, combined with the steady decrease in the homicide rate involving rifles/shotguns, has resulted in a shift in the most common type of firearm used to commit homicide. Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns were used far more frequently than handguns; however, in 1991, the use of handguns surpassed rifles/shotguns for the first time. By 2006, three times as many victims were killed by a handgun (108) than by a rifle/shotgun (36) (Table 3).

Throughout the mid-1970s and early 1980s, firearms were consistently the most common type of weapon used to commit homicide. However, the use of firearms gradually decreased, while the use of knives remained comparatively stable over the same time period. Consequently, in 1985, the rate of fatal stabbings (involving a knife or other cutting instrument) overtook the firearm-related homicide rate for the first time. Since then, the most common method to commit homicide has varied annually between firearms and knives.

Text box 1

Surveys used in this *Juristat*

Three different surveys are used in this report. Unless otherwise noted, data from the Homicide and UCR Surveys represent victim counts and data from the ICCS represent case counts.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey is a census of information from police services on all homicides (first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide) that occur in Canada. Detailed information is available on the characteristics of incidents, victims and accused persons (where applicable). Coverage of the Homicide Survey reflects 100% of the total volume of homicides.

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey is a compilation of reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation from all federal, provincial and municipal police services in Canada. There are two versions of the UCR survey used in this report: aggregate and incident-based microdata.

UCR Aggregate Survey

The UCR Aggregate Survey includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise,

persons charged (by sex and by adult/youth breakdown) and youth not charged. It does not include victim or incident characteristics. Coverage of the UCR Aggregate Survey reflects 100% of the total caseload for all police services in Canada.

UCR Incident-based Survey

The UCR Incident-based Survey is a micro-data survey that captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including the characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Coverage of the UCR Incident-based Survey in 2006 was at 90% of the population of Canada.

The UCR Trend database is a sub-set of the UCR Incident-based Survey. It contains the same detailed information, but only from police services that have been consistently reporting micro-level information since 1998, thus enabling comparisons to be made over time. The data contained within the UCR Trend database in 2006 represented 51% of the population of Canada.

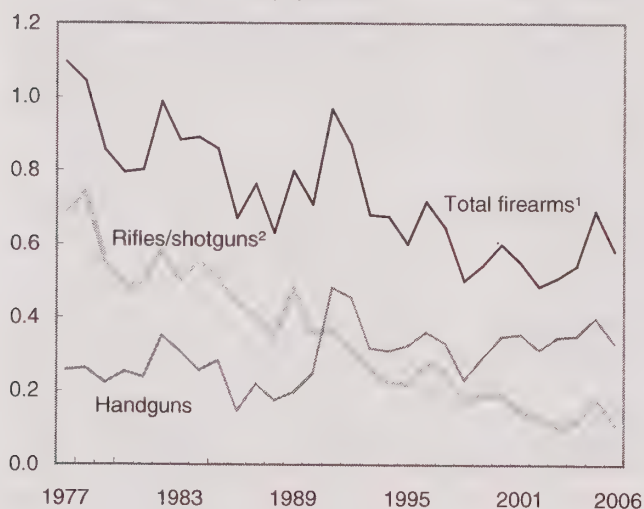
Integrated Criminal Courts Survey

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) represents a collection of information on the processing of cases through the criminal court system. In 2006, the ICCS represented 98% of the national criminal court caseload.

Chart 3

Firearm-related homicide by type of firearm, 1977 to 2006

rate of victims per 100,000 population



1. Total firearms include handguns, rifles/shotgun, sawed off rifles/shotguns, fully automatic firearms, firearm-like weapons (such as pellet guns, nail guns and starter pistols) and unknown type of firearm.
2. Excludes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.

Note: Homicide data reflect victim counts from the Homicide Survey representing 100% of the national volume of homicide.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Not only have firearm-related homicides declined, but Canadian health statistics indicate that all deaths due to firearms have fallen in recent years, from 878 in 2000 to 754 in 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available). Moreover, most firearm-related deaths result from suicide, not homicide. In 2004, three out of every four firearm-related deaths were due to suicides; homicides accounted for 20% and 5% were classified as accidents, undetermined intent or legal intervention.¹

Canada's firearm homicide rate lower than the United States but higher than Australia and England and Wales

This section compares Canada's firearm-related homicide rates to those in the United States, Australia, and England and Wales. The crime of homicide is selected for two reasons. First, unlike other crimes, the definition of homicide tends to be fairly consistent across nations, thus enabling international comparisons. Second, because of its severity, homicide is more likely than any other crime to be known to police and to be the subject of thorough investigation. Thus, a census of detailed homicide data, including the type of weapon used to commit the offence, is available from each of the four countries. Whether the rates of other firearm-related violent crimes, such as attempted murder or robbery, would show the same pattern as homicide is unknown.

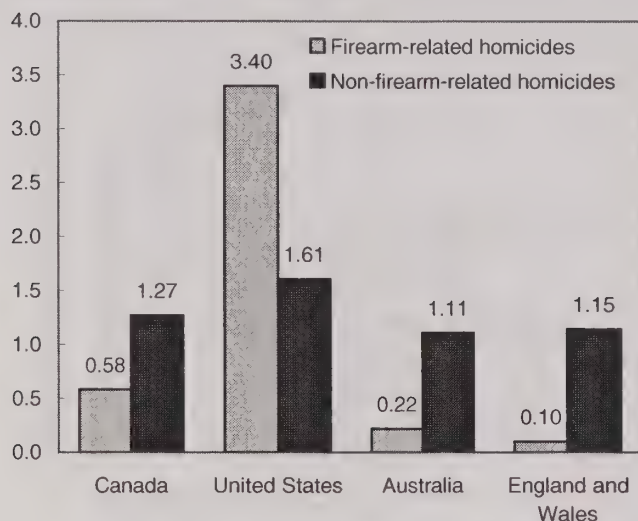
1. Data extracted from the Canadian Vital Statistics Death Database, Health Statistics Division available from CANSIM tables located on the Statistics Canada website (www.statcan.ca).

Overall homicide rates are highest in the United States, followed by Canada, Australia, and England and Wales. While non-firearm homicide rates are similar between the four countries, the rates of firearm-related homicides are quite different (Chart 4). In 2006, Canada's firearm-related homicide rate (0.58) was nearly six times lower than the United States (3.40), but about three times higher than the rate in Australia (0.22) and six times higher than the rate in England and Wales (0.10). Firearms accounted for about one-third (31%) of all homicides in Canada, approximately two-thirds (68%) in the U.S., 16% in Australia and 7% in England and Wales.

Chart 4

Homicide by method for selected countries, 2006

rate of victims per 100,000 population



Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey; Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; Australian Institute of Criminology; and England & Wales Home Office.

All four countries reported that handguns were the most common type of gun used in the commission of firearm-related homicides. In 2006, handguns were responsible for 75% of all firearm-related homicides in the United States, 57% in Canada, 47% in Australia and 44% in England and Wales.

Canadian homicide data from 2003 to 2006 indicate that where registration status was known, 7 in 10 firearms used to commit homicide were reported by police to be unregistered.² Among persons accused of homicide, 27% were found to possess a valid firearms license. Data from Australia show that most firearms used to commit homicide are unlawfully held by accused persons (Mouzos, 2000).

Other violent crimes committed with a firearm also stable

The rates of other types of violence in Canada, including firearm-related attempted murder, robbery, forcible confinement and assault have also remained stable in recent years. The rate of attempted murder with a firearm has consistently hovered at about 1 victim per 100,000 population each year since 1998 (the first year of available data). As with homicides, the most common weapon used to commit attempted murder varied each year between firearms and knives. Among the total number of attempted murders reported by police in 2006, 276 (36%) were committed with a firearm, 7 in 10 of which were handguns.

Data on firearm-related robberies show that the rate has been relatively stable since 2001 following sharp declines throughout the 1990s (Table 2). The rates of firearm-related robbery reported by police in recent years were at their lowest levels since the late 1970s.

In 2006, 14% of all victims of robbery faced a firearm, usually a handgun. A knife or other type of weapon was used in just over one-quarter (27%) of robberies, while no weapon (eg. threat or physical force) was used in almost half of robberies (Table 1). While robberies with other types of weapons also declined during the 1990s, this decrease was less than the decline in robberies with a firearm (Chart 5).

About one in ten victims of forcible confinement (unlawfully confining, imprisoning, forcibly seizing or kidnapping a person) in 2006 were held at gunpoint (417 victims), usually with a handgun. The rate of forcible confinement committed with a firearm has remained stable at approximately 2.0 victims per 100,000 each year since 1998. While the overall incidence of forcible confinement has been steadily rising since the early 1990s, the increase is due to the number of victims held by physical force rather than a firearm.

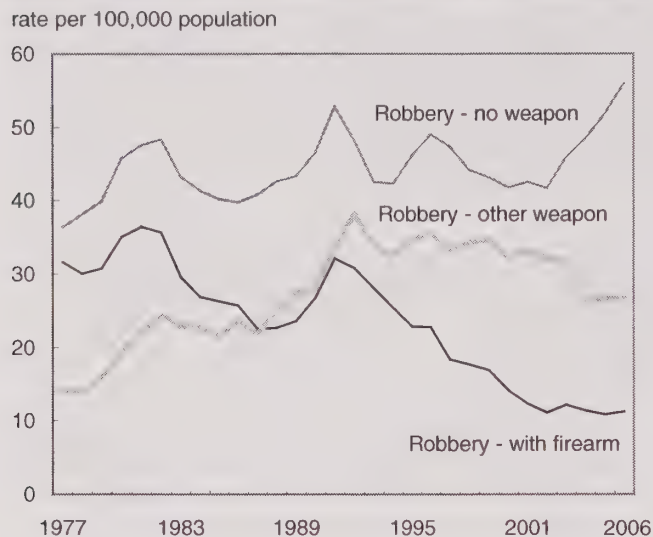
Assaults comprise the majority of crime that is categorized as violent. In 2006, about two-thirds (63%) of all violent crime were assaults, usually minor assaults in which there was no injury caused to the victim. There were about 2,400 assaults committed with a firearm, accounting for about 1% of all assaults. The rate of assaults involving a firearm has remained very consistent over time, at an average of 6.6 victims per 100,000 from 1998 to 2006.

The risk of other violent crimes being committed with a firearm, such as sexual assault, abduction, extortion, criminal harassment and uttering threats, is low. In 2006, a firearm was used against 1% of all victims of these types of violent offences.

2. Depending on the year, anywhere from about half to two-thirds of firearm registration information is reported by police to the Homicide Survey as "unknown", usually because the firearm was not recovered or because investigations were on-going at the time of the survey. The following analysis refers only to those homicides in which the firearm registration status was known to police. This information should be interpreted with caution as these data are not representative of all firearm-related homicides in Canada.

Chart 5

Robbery by type of weapon, 1977 to 2006



Note: Robbery data reflect incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey representing 100% of the national volume of robbery.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (Aggregate) Survey.

Other weapon-related offences increase

In 1999, the UCR Survey began collecting information on weapon-related offences pertaining to the unlawful possession, storage and trafficking of firearms and other regulated weapons. There were nearly 23,000 incidents in 2006 involving at least one of these types of violations, most of which included a violation for illegal possession of a weapon (89%). Trend data show that the rate of incidents involving administrative weapon offences increased by 33% from 1999 to 2006. Some of this increase may be due to the inception of new legislation in 2003 requiring all firearms (including non-restricted shotguns and rifles) to be registered with the Canadian Firearms Registry.

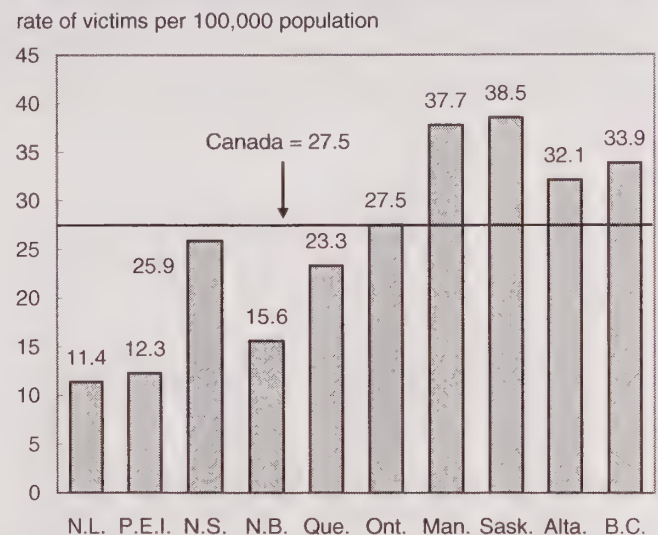
Another type of violation involving firearms pertains to theft. In 2006, there were over 3,100 incidents during which at least one firearm was reported stolen, about half (47%) of which were taken during the course of a break and enter, usually in a residence. Among the total number of firearms stolen, three-quarters were rifles or shotguns (73%) and 8% were classified as restricted weapons (such as handguns); the remaining percentage were other types of firearms. Other than two years of increase in 2002 and 2003, incidents involving stolen firearms have been generally stable since 1998.

Rates of firearm violence highest in the west

Generally speaking, violent crime rates tend to be higher in western Canada than in the central or eastern part of the country. The 2006 rates of firearm-related violent crime mirrored this pattern, with Saskatchewan (38.5) and Manitoba (37.7) reporting rates that were two to three times higher than those in Newfoundland and Labrador (11.4), Prince Edward Island (12.3) and New Brunswick (15.6) (Chart 6). The rates of firearm-related violence in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were substantially higher than those in the provinces.

Chart 6

Firearm-related violent crime by province, 2006



Notes: Crime data reflect victim counts from the UCR2 Survey representing 90% of the population of Canada. Data from British Columbia represent 34% of the population and are not provincially representative.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

With the exception of robbery, the lowest rates of firearm-related crime were reported in eastern Canada (Table 4). The rate of firearm-related robbery, however, was highest in Nova Scotia (14.2). Driving this provincial high was Halifax, where almost 90% of the province's firearm-related robberies occurred and whose rate was the highest of all census metropolitan areas (CMAs).³ The high rates in Nova Scotia are a fairly recent phenomenon. Over the previous 10 years, rates have generally been highest in Quebec and British Columbia for this offence.

3. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) combined with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. Rates reflect at least 85% coverage for all CMAs other than Vancouver whose rate is based upon 46% of the population.

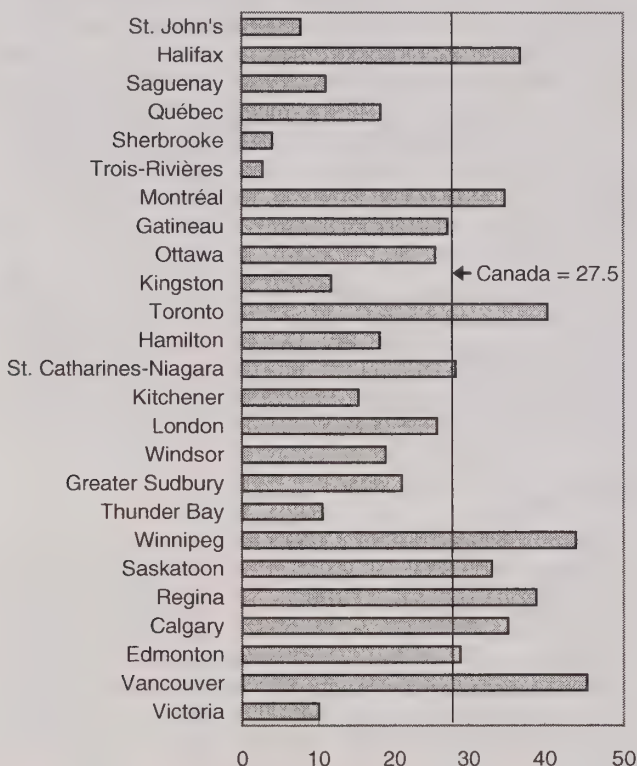
Highest rates of firearm violence in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto

With nearly 2,000 victims, Toronto experienced the highest number of victims of firearm-related violent crimes in 2006, as well as the highest proportion of violent crimes involving firearms (4.1%). However, when controlling for differences in populations, the firearm victimization rate was slightly higher in both Vancouver (45.3 victims per 100,000 population) and Winnipeg (43.9) than in Toronto (40.4). The smaller CMAs of Regina (38.9) and Halifax (36.9) rounded out the five highest rates in the country (Chart 7).

Chart 7

Firearm-related violent crime by census metropolitan area (CMA), 2006

rate of victims per 100,000 population



Notes: Crime data reflect victim counts from the UCR2 Survey representing 90% of the population of Canada. Population estimates have been adjusted to correspond to police boundaries and to include only those police services reporting to the UCR Survey. Rates reflect at least 85% coverage for all CMAs other than Vancouver whose rate is based upon 46% of the population. Excludes the following CMAs: Saint John, Oshawa and Abbotsford.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

The lowest firearm-related violent crime rates were found in the smaller CMAs of Trois-Rivières (2.7), Sherbrooke (4.1) and St. John's (7.8). Hamilton (18.1) and Québec (18.2) were the only large CMAs to report rates that were below the national average (27.5).

There was some geographical variation when looking at specific offences (Table 5). Edmonton, for example, reported the highest rate for firearm-related homicide in 2006, while Abbotsford was highest in each of the preceding four years.⁴ For attempted murder with a firearm, rates were highest in Greater Sudbury (2.5) where, along with Calgary, Toronto and London, a firearm was used to commit 6 in 10 attempted murders. As mentioned earlier, with nearly triple the national rate (11.3), Halifax (30.4) stood out as the CMA with the highest rate of firearm-related robberies in 2006.

Youth accused of violent crime with a firearm increases

Youth (age 12 to 17 years) accused of committing a violent offence are more likely than adults to use a firearm. In 2006, police reported 1,287 youth accused of a firearm-related violent offence, accounting for 2.8% of all youth accused of violence. This was higher than the proportion of adults who had committed a violent firearm offence (1.8%).

The rate of youth accused of a firearm-related violent crime increased in 3 of the past 4 years, following a 19% decrease between 1998 and 2002. The 2006 rate was 32% higher than in 2002 and at its highest point since 1998 (the first year of available data). The overall firearm-related violent crime rates for youth were driven primarily by robberies, which comprised about half of all violent crimes committed with a firearm by youth.

The 2006 rates of youth accused of a firearm-related violent crime in Toronto (96.2) and Saskatoon (91.6) were well above the national average (55.5) and higher than all other CMAs. At 2.0 per 100,000 youth, the rate in Québec was the lowest.

The 2006 overall youth homicide rate was at its highest point since recording began in 1974; however, the rate of youth accused of committing homicide with a firearm (0.4) was in-line with previous years.

Processing of firearm-related violent offences

Police clearance rates (i.e., the rate of solved crime) differ depending on whether an incident is committed with a firearm. In 2006, about half of all violent crimes committed with a firearm

4. It is important to note that while comparisons between CMAs are based upon rates that account for differences in population, the number of firearm-related crimes is relatively low in many areas. For example, while the 2006 firearm-related homicide rate in Abbotsford was the second highest among all CMAs, the rate was based on 2 victims.

Text box 2

Canada's firearm regulations

In Canada, firearms essentially fall into one of three categories: prohibited, restricted or non-restricted. In general, prohibited firearms include assault pistols, short-barreled handguns and combat shotguns, and are only permissible for certain exempted personnel such as military or peace officers. Most handguns are classified as restricted firearms, while rifles and shotguns normally fall within the category of non-restricted.

In order to own or possess a firearm or to purchase ammunition, an individual must hold a valid firearms license under the *Firearms Act*. An applicant must undergo screening provisions which include the completion of a multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, and a mandatory 28-day waiting period.

All firearms falling within the restricted firearms category were made subject to registration requirements in 1934. In 2003, new legislation required all firearms (including non-restricted shotguns and rifles) to be registered with the Canadian Firearms Registry. As of March 2007, nearly 2 million individuals in Canada held valid firearms licenses for almost 7 million registered firearms – 92% for non-restricted firearms, 5% for restricted firearms and 3% for prohibited firearms. Between December 1, 1998 and December 1, 2006 about 20,000 firearms licenses were refused or revoked due to such reasons as court ordered prohibitions, potential risks to self or others, the applicant's history of violence, providing false information, mental illness and drug offences. During the same time period, more than 1 million registered firearms have been exported, destroyed or deactivated (Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2007).

Firearm regulations in the United States, Australia, and England and Wales

Firearm regulations and licensing requirements in other countries having similar social, economic and demographic characteristics differ from those in Canada. In the United States, for example, regulations pertaining to gun registration, permit requirements, waiting periods and background checks are state-specific and therefore vary across the country (Open Society Institute, 2000). Most states do not have licensing or registration requirements for any type of firearm, including handguns, assault weapons and rifles/shotguns (Open Society Institute, 2000). Further, about three-quarters of all American states have provisions that grant ordinary citizens the "right to carry" a concealed weapon (Wellford, Pepper & Petrie, 2004). According to the International Crime Victimization Survey conducted in 2000, 33% of American respondents reported keeping at least one firearm in their home compared to 17% of Canadians, 11% of Australians and 3% of households in England and Wales (Australian Institute of Criminology, 2000).

Firearm policy in Australia was revamped following a 1996 incident in Tasmania in which a man armed with military-style, semi-automatic rifles killed 35 people and injured another 18. The new legislation banned self-loading and pump-action rifles/shotguns, implemented a nationwide gun licensing and registration system, and introduced tighter requirements for firearm ownership (Phillips, Park & Lorimer, 2007). Handguns, for example, were made available only to gun collectors and bona-fide members of an approved pistol club (Gun Control Australia, 2007).

Gun laws in England and Wales are some of the most stringent in the western world. Following the 1998 school shootings of 16 kindergarten children in Dunblane, Scotland, the United Kingdom passed legislation that banned civilian possession of all handguns, without exception (Livingston, 2007). Permits for other types of firearms, such as rifles and shotguns, became more restricted and are now only granted to those involved in certain legitimate employment categories or for sporting-related reasons (Home Office, 2004).

were cleared by police compared to three-quarters of violent crimes that were not committed with a firearm. A recent study of the factors affecting homicide clearance rates found that incidents involving firearms were almost three times more likely to be unsolved compared to other homicides (Dauvergne and Li, 2006).

Court processing and sentencing outcomes also differ depending on whether the case involves a charge for a firearm-related offence.⁵ According to data collected by the Integrated Criminal Courts Survey, adults accused of a violent offence involving the use of a firearm were slightly less likely to plead guilty than those accused of the same offence without a firearm. In 2005/2006, a guilty plea was entered in 79% of violent cases where the most serious offence had been committed with a firearm compared to 86% of violent cases where the offence had not been committed with a firearm. This difference may be related to the existence of a mandatory minimum penalty of four years imprisonment for these offences when a firearm is used.

Adult court cases involving violent offences committed with a firearm tend to take longer to resolve than those that do not involve a firearm. In 2005/2006, the elapsed time in court from first appearance to last appearance was, on average, 326 days for firearm-related violent offences (as the most serious offence in a case) and 276 days for violent offences where a firearm had not been used. This difference may be due to the lower proportion of guilty pleas for cases involving violent firearm offences; cases that proceed to trial are known to take longer in the court system.

Sentencing outcomes also vary depending on firearm involvement. In 2005/2006, persons convicted of a firearm-related violent offence were sentenced to an average of 4.2 years in prison, more than double the average custodial sentence length for those convicted of a non-firearm violent offence.⁶

Summary

The rates of overall firearm-related violent crime have been stable since 2003. Most violent offences, including homicide, attempted murder, robbery, forcible confinement and assault follow a similar pattern. Longer-term data, available for homicide and robbery, show that the rates of these two offences gradually declined throughout the past three decades with recent levels well below those reported in the 1970s. While the incidence of firearm-related violent crime is relatively low, those that are committed with a firearm most often involve a handgun.

5. The following offences were used in all court-based comparisons: manslaughter, criminal negligence causing death, attempted murder, causing bodily harm with intent, aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping, hostage-taking and extortion. These ten crimes are identified within the *Criminal Code* as unique offences when committed with a firearm. As such, it is possible to examine differences based upon whether or not a firearm was used in the commission of these offences.
6. Average custodial sentence lengths may be under-estimated as time in custody prior to sentencing is sometimes taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. However, the extent to which this time influences the sanction imposed is not available from the ICCS.

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Table 1

Violent crime by selected offence and type of weapon, Canada, 2006

Type of offence	Firearm		Knife ¹		Club/blunt instrument		Other weapon ²		Total weapon	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Homicide ³	190	31.4	209	34.5	50	8.3	39	6.4	488	80.7
Attempted murder ⁴	276	36.0	268	34.9	27	3.5	64	8.3	635	82.8
Robbery ^{4,5}	3,948	13.9	5,375	18.9	1,068	3.8	1,208	4.2	11,599	40.8
Forcible confinement ^{4,6}	417	10.2	456	11.1	113	2.8	230	5.6	1,216	29.7
Sexual assault ^{4,7}	65	0.3	211	1.1	51	0.3	273	1.4	600	3.1
Assault ⁴	2,388	1.1	12,681	6.0	8,349	3.9	17,878	8.4	41,296	19.4
Uttering threats ⁴	757	1.5	1,423	2.9	453	0.9	821	1.7	3,454	7.0
Criminal harassment ⁴	41	0.2	55	0.3	30	0.2	386	2.3	512	3.1
Total⁴	8,105	2.4	20,707	6.2	10,163	3.0	21,243	6.3	60,218	17.9

	Physical force		Threat/no weapon		Total no weapon		Unknown		Total	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Homicide ³	86	14.2	1	0.2	87	14.4	30	5.0	605	100.0
Attempted murder ⁴	30	3.9	66	8.6	96	12.5	36	4.7	767	100.0
Robbery ^{4,5}	12,373	43.5	847	3.0	13,220	46.5	3,611	12.7	28,430	100.0
Forcible confinement ^{4,6}	2,249	54.9	95	2.3	2,344	57.2	537	13.1	4,097	100.0
Sexual assault ^{4,7}	15,442	80.7	101	0.5	15,543	81.3	2,984	15.6	19,127	100.0
Assault ⁴	159,701	74.9	835	0.4	160,536	75.3	11,272	5.3	213,104	100.0
Uttering threats ⁴	5,496	11.2	36,392	74.2	41,888	85.4	3,713	7.6	49,055	100.0
Criminal harassment ⁴	1,948	11.8	12,150	73.7	14,098	85.5	1,879	11.4	16,489	100.0
Total⁴	198,947	59.2	51,968	15.5	250,915	74.7	24,754	7.4	335,887	100.0

1. Knife includes other piercing and cutting instruments such as hatchets and razor blades.

2. Other weapon includes all weapons that do not belong in another category such as fire, explosives and poison.

3. Homicide data reflect victim counts from the Homicide Survey representing 100% of the national volume of homicides.

4. Attempted murder, robbery, forcible confinement, sexual assault, assault, uttering threats, criminal harassment and total violent crime data reflect victim counts from the UCR2 Survey representing 90% of the population of Canada.

5. Total firearm-related robbery counts presented in Tables 1 and 3 represent victim counts from the UCR2 Survey whereas Tables 2, 4 and 5 represent incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey. Victim counts are greater than incident counts as there can be multiple victims associated with the same incident.

6. Forcible confinement includes kidnapping.

7. Sexual assault includes levels 1, 2 and 3. This category does not include other sexual offences such as invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation or incest.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 2

Firearm-related homicide and robbery, Canada, 1977 to 2006

Year	Firearm-related homicide ¹			Firearm-related robbery ²		
	Number	Rate ³	% of all homicides	Number	Rate ³	% of all robberies
1977	260	1.1	36.6	7,507	31.6	38.5
1978	250	1.0	37.8	7,203	30.1	36.6
1979	207	0.9	32.8	7,439	30.7	35.6
1980	195	0.8	32.9	8,594	35.1	35.0
1981	199	0.8	30.7	9,040	36.4	34.4
1982	248	1.0	37.2	8,954	35.6	32.9
1983	224	0.9	32.8	7,505	29.6	30.9
1984	228	0.9	34.2	6,886	26.9	29.5
1985	222	0.9	31.5	6,789	26.3	29.8
1986	175	0.7	30.8	6,710	25.7	28.8
1987	202	0.8	31.4	5,960	22.5	26.5
1988	169	0.6	29.3	6,072	22.7	25.1
1989	218	0.8	33.2	6,439	23.6	25.0
1990	196	0.7	29.7	7,426	26.8	26.4
1991	271	1.0	35.9	9,006	32.1	27.1
1992	247	0.9	33.7	8,736	30.8	26.3
1993	195	0.7	31.1	8,038	28.0	26.8
1994	196	0.7	32.9	7,361	25.4	25.4
1995	176	0.6	29.9	6,692	22.8	22.1
1996	212	0.7	33.4	6,737	22.8	21.2
1997	193	0.6	32.9	5,486	18.3	18.5
1998	151	0.5	27.1	5,324	17.7	18.4
1999	165	0.5	30.7	5,122	16.8	17.8
2000	184	0.6	33.7	4,323	14.1	16.0
2001	171	0.6	30.9	3,818	12.3	14.0
2002	152	0.5	26.1	3,483	11.1	13.1
2003	161	0.5	29.3	3,856	12.2	13.6
2004	173	0.5	27.7	3,645	11.4	13.3
2005	223	0.7	33.6	3,508	10.9	12.2
2006	190	0.6	31.4	3,671	11.3	12.0

1. Homicide data reflect victim counts from the Homicide Survey representing 100% of the national volume of homicides.

2. Robbery data reflect incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey representing 100% of the national volume of robberies. Total firearm-related robbery counts presented in Tables 1 and 3 represent victim counts from the UCR2 Survey whereas Tables 2, 4 and 5 represent incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey. Victim counts are greater than incident counts as there can be multiple victims associated with the same incident.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR Aggregate) Survey.

Table 3

Firearm-related violent crime by selected offence and type of firearm, Canada, 2006

Type of firearm	Homicide ¹		Attempted murder ²		Robbery ^{2,3}		Total ²	
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Handgun	108	56.8	188	68.1	3,253	82.4	5,100	62.9
Rifle/shotgun	36	18.9	47	17.0	194	4.9	844	10.4
Sawed-off rifle/shotgun	24	12.6	9	3.3	212	5.4	378	4.7
Fully automatic firearm	2	1.1	12	4.3	62	1.6	176	2.2
Firearm-like weapon ⁴	2	1.1	20	7.2	227	5.7	1,607	19.8
Unknown type of firearm	18	9.5	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	190	100.0	276	100.0	3,948	100.0	8,105	100.0

. not available for any reference period

1. Homicide data reflect victim counts from the Homicide Survey representing 100% of the national volume of homicides.

2. Attempted murder, robbery and total violent crime data reflect victim counts from the UCR2 Survey representing 90% of the population of Canada.

3. Total firearm-related robbery counts presented in Tables 1 and 3 represent victim counts from the UCR2 Survey whereas Tables 2, 4 and 5 represent incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey. Victim counts are greater than incident counts as there can be multiple victims associated with the same incident.

4. Firearm-like weapon includes pellet guns, nail guns, starter pistols, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

Table 4

Firearm-related violent crime for selected offences by province and territory, 2006

Province/territory	Firearm-related homicide ¹			Firearm-related attempted murder ²			Firearm-related robbery ³			Total firearm-related violent crime ²		
	Number	Rate ⁴	% of all homicides	Number	Rate ⁴	% of all attempted murders	Number	Rate ⁴	% of all robberies	Number	Rate ⁴	% of total violent crime
Newfoundland and Labrador	4	0.8	57.1	2	0.4	28.6	11	2.2	9.2	58	11.4	1.1
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	17	12.3	1.3
Nova Scotia	5	0.5	31.3	5	0.5	12.2	133	14.2	16.8	242	25.9	1.8
New Brunswick	2	0.3	28.6	3	0.4	37.5	31	4.1	14.0	106	15.6	1.6
Quebec	34	0.4	36.6	49	0.6	20.0	781	10.2	11.2	1,775	23.3	2.2
Ontario	66	0.5	33.7	148	1.2	48.8	1,609	12.7	14.6	3,455	27.5	2.9
Manitoba	8	0.7	20.5	6	0.5	27.3	134	11.4	6.2	425	37.7	2.0
Saskatchewan	10	1.0	25.0	13	1.3	28.3	93	9.4	6.3	379	38.5	1.7
Alberta	32	0.9	33.3	37	1.1	56.1	352	10.4	11.2	1,071	32.1	2.6
British Columbia ⁵	29	0.7	26.9	10	0.7	41.7	523	12.1	11.0	497	33.9	2.8
Yukon	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.2	5.6	9	28.8	0.9
Northwest Territories	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	2.4	6.7	35	83.6	1.2
Nunavut	0	0.0	0.0	3	9.7	75.0	2	6.5	16.7	36	117.0	1.5
Canada	190	0.6	31.4	276	0.9	36.0	3,671	11.3	12.0	8,105	27.5	2.4

1. Homicide data reflect victim counts from the Homicide Survey representing 100% of the national volume of homicides.

2. Attempted murder and total violent crime data reflect victim counts from the UCR2 Survey representing 90% of the population of Canada.

3. Robbery data reflect incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey representing 100% of the national volume of robberies. Total firearm-related robbery counts presented in Tables 1 and 3 represent victim counts from the UCR2 Survey whereas Tables 2, 4 and 5 represent incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey. Victim counts are greater than incident counts as there can be multiple victims associated with the same incident.

4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

5. Data for attempted murder and total violent crime from British Columbia represent 34% of the population and are not provincially representative. Data for homicide and robbery represent 100% coverage.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting (Aggregate and UCR2) Survey.

Table 5

Firearm-related violent crime for selected offences by census metropolitan area,¹ 2006

Census metropolitan area (CMA)	Firearm-related homicide ²			Firearm-related attempted murder ³			Firearm-related robbery ⁴			Total firearm-related violent crime ³		
	Number	Rate ⁵	% of all homicides	Number	Rate ^{5,6}	% of all attempted murders	Number	Rate ⁵	% of all robberies	Number	Rate ^{5,6}	% of total violent crime
500,000+ population												
Toronto ⁷	34	0.6	34.3	103	2.1	63.6	995	18.4	15.8	1,993	40.4	4.1
Montréal	25	0.7	48.1	36	1.0	23.5	645	17.4	11.6	1,291	34.9	3.1
Vancouver ⁸	15	0.7	27.3	10	1.0	47.6	408	18.7	12.3	455	45.3	3.3
Calgary	6	0.5	23.1	9	0.8	64.3	133	12.0	11.2	388	35.2	3.9
Edmonton	15	1.4	38.5	6	0.6	50.0	168	15.9	11.3	306	28.9	2.9
Ottawa ⁹	8	0.9	50.0	11	1.2	47.8	138	15.6	16.9	226	25.5	3.6
Québec	0	0.0	0.0	3	0.4	16.7	67	9.2	14.9	132	18.2	1.9
Winnipeg	7	1.0	31.8	4	0.6	36.4	123	16.9	6.2	315	43.9	2.8
Hamilton ⁷	3	0.4	42.9	1	0.2	50.0	111	15.8	14.6	94	18.1	2.0
100,000 to less than 500,000 population												
Kitchener	1	0.2	50.0	3	0.6	37.5	24	4.9	6.5	75	15.3	1.8
London	0	0.0	0.0	9	1.9	60.0	55	11.6	13.2	122	25.8	2.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	1	0.2	25.0	2	0.5	33.3	60	13.8	16.1	123	28.3	3.7
Halifax	3	0.8	50.0	2	0.5	8.0	116	30.4	18.0	141	36.9	2.4
Oshawa ¹⁰	0	0.0	0.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Victoria	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	15	4.4	5.9	34	10.0	0.9
Windsor	2	0.6	40.0	4	1.3	50.0	16	4.8	6.9	57	18.9	1.8
Gatineau ¹¹	2	0.7	22.2	2	0.7	50.0	24	8.3	12.2	79	27.2	2.1
Saskatoon	2	0.8	25.0	2	0.8	25.0	39	15.9	6.0	80	33.1	1.7
Regina	2	1.0	22.2	4	2.0	28.6	35	17.5	6.6	78	38.9	2.2
St. John's	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	10	5.5	10.4	14	7.8	0.8
Abbotsford ¹²	2	1.2	66.7	..	..	..	25	15.2	16.6	..	..	..
Greater Sudbury	0	0.0	0.0	4	2.5	57.1	13	8.0	10.8	34	21.0	2.0
Kingston	1	0.7	50.0	0	0.0	0.0	8	5.2	14.0	18	11.7	1.1
Sherbrooke	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	5	3.4	5.0	6	4.1	0.4
Trois-Rivières	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.7	1.6	4	2.7	0.3
Saguenay	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.7	3.7	16	11.0	1.1
Thunder Bay	1	0.8	50.0	0	0.0	0.0	4	3.2	2.9	13	10.6	0.6
Saint John ¹²	0	0.0	0.0	..	..	..	5	5.1	6.2	..	..	..
Canada	190	0.6	31.4	276	0.9	36.0	3,671	11.3	12.0	8,105	27.5	2.4

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) combined with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. A CMA usually comprises more than one police service.

2. Homicide data reflect victim counts from the Homicide Survey representing 100% of the national volume of homicides.

3. Attempted murder and total violent crime data reflect victim counts from the UCR2 Survey representing 90% of the population of Canada.

4. Robbery data reflect incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey representing 100% of the national volume of robberies. Total firearm-related robbery counts presented in Tables 1 and 3 represent victim counts from the UCR2 Survey whereas Tables 2, 4 and 5 represent incident counts from the UCR Aggregate Survey. Victim counts are greater than incident counts as there can be multiple victims associated with the same incident.

5. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

6. For attempted murder and total violent crime, populations have been adjusted to include only those police services reporting to the UCR2 Survey. Rates reflect at least 85% coverage for all CMAs other than Vancouver.

7. Excludes data from the Halton Regional Police Service and the Durham Regional Police Service due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

8. Data for attempted murder and total violent crime in Vancouver represent 46% of the population and include the following police services: Vancouver, Richmond, Delta, New Westminster, West Vancouver and Port Moody. Data for homicide and robbery represent 100% coverage.

9. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

10. Firearm-related data are only available for homicide.

11. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

12. Firearm-related data are only available for homicide and robbery.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey and Uniform Crime Reporting (Aggregate and UCR2) Survey.

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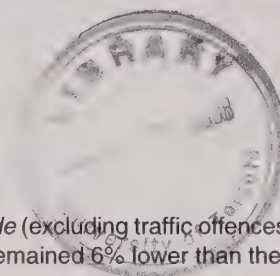
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Youth Crime in Canada, 2006

by Andrea Taylor-Butts and Angela Bressan

Highlights

- In 2006, almost 180,000 youth were implicated in a violation of the *Criminal Code* (excluding traffic offences). At 6,885 per 100,000, the youth crime rate in 2006 was up 3% over the previous year, but remained 6% lower than the rate a decade earlier and 25% below the 1991 peak.
- In 2006, about 6 in 10 youth implicated in an offence did not face charges and were handled outside the formal justice system. The use of charges against youth accused of a crime declined markedly following the introduction of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in 2003.
- Since the introduction of the YCJA, the proportion of accused youth who were cleared by means other than a charge increased for virtually all offences, particularly for youth accused of possession of stolen goods, bail violations, and fraud. Nevertheless, police charges continued to be the norm for offences associated with the most severe penalties, while offences carrying less serious penalties remained among those least likely to result in charges.
- The violent crime rate among youth rose 12% over the last decade. Increases in assault rates, the most prevalent type of violent offence for which youth were apprehended, accounted for much of the increase in youth violent crime rates.
- About 5% of all *Criminal Code* violations committed by youth involved a weapon. When a weapon was present in a youth crime, it was most commonly a knife.
- Crime rates for 'other' *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief and disturbing the peace rose between 1997 and 2006, while declines in rates for offences such as theft and break and enter have contributed to the overall drop in property crime rates among youth during this 10-year period.
- Youth apprehended for drug crimes were mostly involved in cannabis-related offences (84%) and, in 2006, the drug-related offence rate for youth had nearly doubled from 1997.
- In 2006, about 1 in 10 youth crimes occurred on school property, with assaults being the most prevalent offence (27%), followed by drug-offences (18%). Weapons were present in about 7% of school crimes; less than 1% of all school crimes involved firearms.



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Introduction

In 2006, the national crime rate was down 3% over the previous year and was the lowest it had been in more than 25 years. However, the youth crime rate, which includes youth (12 to 17 years of age) formally charged or recommended to the Crown for charging by police as well as youth cleared by means other than the laying of a charge, was up 3% from a year earlier. Moreover, since 1961 when statistics were first available, the rate of homicides committed by young people under the age of 18 was at an all-time high. Still, the youth crime rate in 2006 was substantially lower than in the early 1990s. Additionally, the replacement of the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) with the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in 2003 has brought significant changes to how the criminal justice system in Canada responds to youth involved in criminal activities (see Text box 1, The YCJA: A summary).

This *Juristat* presents a picture of youth crime in Canada, as reported to police and examines trends in the youth crime rate since its peak in 1991 as well as recent trends in crimes committed by youth, with particular reference to the period following the implementation of the YCJA.

Text box 1

The YCJA: A summary

In 1998, the Department of Justice Canada introduced a "Strategy for Youth Justice" that approached youth justice with an inclusive framework, including crime prevention, education, child welfare, child mental health, family and the community. One aspect of the "Strategy for Youth Justice" was the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), which was first introduced into Parliament in March 1999 and came into force on April 1, 2003 (Department of Justice Canada, 2003).

Building on the strengths of the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), the YCJA also addresses the weaknesses of the previous legislation and provides the legislative framework for a fairer and more effective youth justice system. Among the chief objectives of the YCJA are: clear and coherent principles to improve decision-making in the youth justice system; more appropriate use of the courts, fairness in sentencing, and reduced use of custody so that the most serious interventions are reserved for the most serious crimes; clear distinctions between serious violent offences and less serious offences; and effective reintegration of youth (Department of Justice Canada, 2003:20).

One of the main features of the YCJA is the diversion of youth who have committed non-violent and minor crimes away from the formal court system by encouraging the use of extrajudicial measures. These measures are meant to provide timely and meaningful consequences and allow the community to participate in developing community-based responses to youth crime. Extrajudicial measures include taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions programs (Department of Justice Canada, 2003).

Trends in youth crime rates¹

After peaking in 1991 (9,126 per 100,000 youth), the youth crime rate, following a pattern similar to the national crime rate, decreased throughout the 1990s. More recently, youth crime has fluctuated; generally increasing from 1999 to 2003 then decreasing until 2006. Despite the 3% increase in 2006, youth crime was 6% below the rate a decade earlier and 25% below the 1991 peak. In 2006, almost 180,000 youth were implicated in a violation of the *Criminal Code* (excluding traffic), bringing the youth crime rate to 6,885 per 100,000 youth (Table 1).

Across Canada the rate of youth crime varied considerably, with provincial crime rates ranging from a low of 3,765 per 100,000 youth in Quebec to a high of 19,939 in Saskatchewan (Table 2). All provinces except Quebec reported an annual increase in their youth crime rate in 2006,² with Prince Edward Island (+38%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+22%), Nova Scotia (+17%), and Manitoba (+14%) recording the largest increases.

Following the national trend, British Columbia (-49%), Alberta (-41%), Ontario (-34%) and Quebec (-25%) were the only provinces to experience declines in their youth crime rates between the 1991 peak in youth crime and 2006. In the other six provinces, particularly New Brunswick (+40%), Nova Scotia (+35%), Saskatchewan (+34%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (+25%), youth crime rates were up between 1991 and 2006.

Violent crimes make up a larger share of youth crime

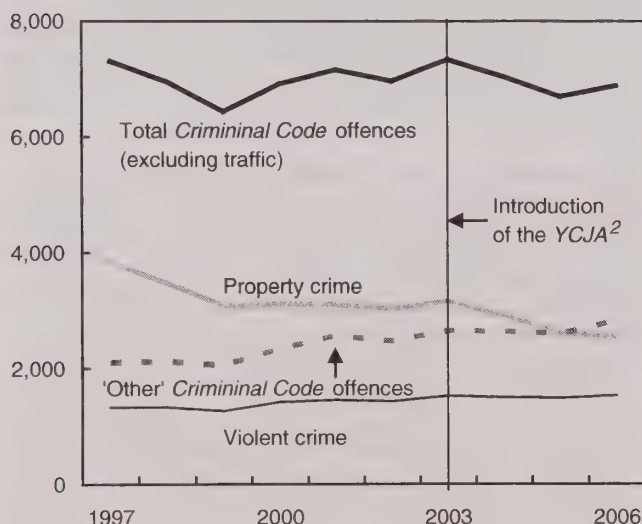
The last 10 years have seen a shift in the distribution of the types of crimes for which youth are apprehended with increases in both violent offences and 'other' *Criminal Code* offences. While the proportion of youth involved in property crimes has decreased over this time period, still youth involved in these types of offences accounted for about 4 in 10 youth accused of crimes in Canada in 2006 (Chart 1).

In the 10 years between 1997 and 2006, the overall violent crime rate in Canada declined 4%. However, the violent crime rate among youth has risen 12% in the last 10 years and has climbed 30% since 1991. By 2006, youth accused of violent offences accounted for nearly a quarter of youth crime; up from one in five 10 years earlier. Much of this increase in the rate of youth violent crime has been driven by an increase in youth involvement in assault. Youth accused of assault represented nearly 80% of those apprehended for a violent crime in 2006, with those accused of common assault constituting about 60% of all youth involved in violent offences (Table 1).

Chart 1

Youth violent crimes and 'other' *Criminal Code* offences increase while property crimes drop over the last decade

rate per 100,000 youth¹



1. Youth aged 12 to 17.

2. Youth *Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

In 2006, both the number and rate of youth aged 12 to 17 years accused of homicide reached their highest point since data were first collected in 1961. However, just 5 years prior, the youth homicide rate was at a 30-year low. Thus, while one of the largest growths in the youth crime rate in the past decade has been in the rate of youth accused of homicide (+41%), it is important to note that the rate of youth-perpetrated homicide can vary greatly from year-to-year due to the relatively small number of youth who commit homicide.

In total, 84 youth³ (72 male and 12 female), representing less than 0.1% of all young offenders, were implicated in 54 homicides in 2006 (Li, 2007). Moreover, about half (52%) of homicides where the accused was a youth involved multiple perpetrators versus a single accused; this compared to just 15% of homicides involving an adult accused (Li, 2007). In addition, evidence of gang involvement was reported by police in 22% of homicides with a youth accused (versus 9% of homicides where adults were accused) (Li, 2007).

About 5% of all youth crimes in 2006 involved a weapon.⁴ Considering youth violent crime alone, weapons were present in about 20% of cases, a figure that has remained stable since 2004 but represents a decline from previous years. Between 1998 and 2003, weapons were present in about 25% of violent crimes among youth.⁵ Knives and other cutting instruments were the weapons most commonly involved in youth violent crimes, accounting for about one-third of the weapons in 2006. Another 15% of weapons were blunt objects such as clubs or bats, 14% were firearms,⁶ and other types of weapons made up the remainder. Typically, it was older youth (i.e., aged 15 to 17) who were involved in violent offences where weapons were present.

In 2006, nearly 7 in 10 (69%) youth violent offences involving weapons were assaults. Homicides constituted a very small percentage (0.05%) of youth crime and represented less than 1% of all violent crimes where a weapon was present in 2006. However, 44% of homicides committed by youth involved a knife and 17% a firearm (Li, 2007).

In addition to the growth in youth violent crime rates, youth involvement in 'other' *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, offensive weapons⁷ and counterfeiting have increased considerably over the last 10 years (+34%) (Table 1). In particular, rates for mischief (+46%), which accounts for one-third of 'other' *Criminal Code* offences, bail violations (+33%) and offensive weapons (+44%) have shown notable increases from 10 years earlier.

Drops in minor theft and break and enter drive continuing decline in youth property crime rates

Opposite the trend in violent crime rates, the youth property crime rate fell to a third of what it had been 10 years earlier, putting it at its lowest point in a decade. Much of the decline in the rate of property crime in 2006 can be explained by substantial decreases in rates for break and enters (-47%) and minor theft (-33%), the criminal offence in which youth were most commonly implicated. Together, youth accused of these crimes represented more than two-thirds of the

youth apprehended for property offences. Motor vehicle theft rates also declined in 2006, down 41% from 10 years ago (Table 1).

By 2006, the rate of break-ins among youth in Canada had dropped to its lowest level in a decade. The large reduction in the rate of break-ins may be related, in part, to innovative police crime prevention programs targeting break-ins in specific neighbourhoods.⁸ Another contributing factor may be an increase in the use of home security devices by Canadians. The General Social Survey (GSS) reported that more than twice as many Canadians had burglar alarms or motion detectors in 2004 (31%) than in 1993 (15%) (Gannon, 2005). Also, one-third of Canadians reported in 2004 that they had installed new locks or security bars in their home.

Increase in cocaine and other drugs

In 2006, close to 18,000 youth, or 693 youth per 100,000 population, were accused of drug-related offences (Table 1). Drug-related crimes among youth have climbed dramatically over the last 10 years, with a rate of drug offences among youth in 2006 that was nearly double (+97%) that of 10 years earlier (Table 1). While the vast majority of drug-related offences involved cannabis (84%), the proportion of youth accused of cocaine and other drug offences has grown, more than doubling over the last 10 years.

This growth follows the introduction of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)* in May 1997. Replacing the *Narcotic Control Act*, the *CDSA* strengthened law enforcement powers and broadened the range of illegal substances covered by the drug legislation to include substances such as amphetamines, LSD and anabolic steroids. Other explanations for the increased rates of other drugs may reside in the growing popularity of certain drugs, such as ecstasy and crystal methamphetamines (Gannon, 2006; Silver 2007). For example, in a report discussing the drug culture in Ontario, it is indicated that methamphetamine labs, which produce 'crystal meth', have increased significantly throughout the province, particularly between 2001 and 2004.⁹

Youth crimes at school¹⁰

Continued concerns over bullying and violence in schools makes youth crime committed on school grounds a topic of ongoing interest. About one-tenth (13%) of *Criminal Code* (excluding traffic) and drug violations by youth occurred on school property in 2006. About three-quarters (73%) of youth criminal incidents taking place on school grounds that came to the attention of the police occurred during the hours of supervised school activities—about a quarter of police-reported youth crime occurred after school. However, with the absence of students, teachers and other school staff outside regular school hours, crimes occurring at these times would be more likely to go undetected and unreported than those taking place during school hours. In addition, 'zero tolerance' policies may increase the likelihood that violent offences that have taken place during school hours will be reported to police.

Assaults, particularly common assault, represented about 30% of all violations committed by youth on school property and

uttering threats constituted another 8%. Nearly 20% of crimes committed at school were drug offences, whereas 5% of youth crimes committed elsewhere were drug-related. Youth drug offences taking place on school grounds usually involved the possession (78%) or trafficking of cannabis (10%).

Rates of youth crime occurring on school property have shown some fluctuations over the last few years. However, generally, youth crime rates at school have risen. According to police-reported data, the rate for youth committing *Criminal Code* and drug offences on school grounds was up 27% in 2006 over 1998.¹¹ This increase was due in part to an 18% rise in youth crime rates for *Criminal Code* offences committed at school, as well as a 66% rise in drug offences.

Weapons were not present in most crimes occurring on school property, either during or after supervised hours. About 7% of all youth crimes committed on school grounds involved weapons and less than 1% of all school crimes in Canada involved firearms. Moreover, police-reported data from 1998 to 2006 indicate that these figures are consistent with previous years.¹² When a weapon was present, it was most often a knife or blunt object. Among those school incidents where a weapon was known to be present, 36% involved a knife or some other cutting instrument, 14% a club or other blunt instrument and 9% a gun. In the remaining incidents, some other type of weapon was used.

Measures other than charges used to handle the majority of youth crimes

Once a young person accused of a crime is apprehended by police, he or she may be formally charged, recommended to the Crown for charging by police, or dealt with through other means. Police-reported data¹³ show that charges were laid or recommended against 42% of youth accused of a *Criminal Code* offence in 2006, while 58% of youth accused were given a warning, caution, referral to a community or extrajudicial program or handled through some other means in lieu of formal charges (Table 3). In total, about 74,000 youth, or 2,862 per 100,000, were charged¹⁴ with a crime and about 104,000 (4,023 per 100,000) were cleared using other measures (Table 1).

The proportion of youth charged varied across Canada. In 2006, the proportion of apprehended youth charged was smallest in the territories (26% overall), followed by British Columbia (29%) and the Atlantic provinces (35% overall); while Ontario (47%), Saskatchewan (46%) and Manitoba (45%) had higher proportions charged (Table 3). It is important to note, however, that differences in the mix of offences committed by youth across the provinces and territories could account for some of the inter-jurisdictional variations in the proportions of youth charged. While generally similar, the specific make-up of youth crime is distinctive for each province and territory. For instance, youth apprehended for violent crime constitute a smaller proportion of the youth accused of crimes in Yukon (18%), Northwest Territories (17%) and Nunavut (18%) than in provinces such as Ontario and Manitoba, where about one-quarter of apprehended youth are accused of violent offences. Additionally, jurisdictional differences may be, in part, a

reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada, as well as inter-jurisdictional variations in the availability of extrajudicial programs and recording practices surrounding their usage.

Warnings and cautions accounted for 44% of the alternatives to formal charges employed by police, referrals to community and extrajudicial programs made up 9%, and other means¹⁵ made up the remaining 47%.¹⁶ Overall, warnings and cautions were most commonly issued to youth implicated in property offences (30%) such as minor theft, rather than violent crimes (19%) or 'other' *Criminal Code* violations (20%). Among violent offences, common assaults were most likely to result in a warning or caution, as were violations for disturbing the peace among 'other' *Criminal Code* offences. Referrals to community and extrajudicial programs were also more likely among youth involved in property offences (7%) compared to youth accused of violent offences (4%) and 'other' *Criminal Code* offences (1%).

Measures other than formal charges were used to handle just over half (55%) of male youth implicated in a crime, whereas alternate means were used for close to two-thirds (64%) of female youth accused of an offence. Formal charges were also more likely to be laid against older youth, namely those aged 15 to 17, than against youth under the age of 15; more than half of 16- and 17-year-olds and just under half of 15-year-olds were charged, compared to 40% of youth aged 14, 31% aged 13 and 19% of 12-year-olds.

Differences in the proportion of male and female youth charged may be related to the types of offences for which each group tends to be implicated. However, when the type of offence (e.g., robbery and break and enter) was considered in conjunction with the sex of the accused, male youth were still more likely to be charged in some cases. Overall, the proportion of male youth involved in property (38%) and violent (49%) crimes who were formally charged rather than dealt with through other means was greater than for female youth apprehended for these types of offences (28% and 41%, respectively). In particular, the proportion of male youth accused of robbery and break and enter who faced charges for these offences was about twice that of female youth apprehended for these crimes.

Further examination of the circumstances surrounding the offences, such as the presence of a weapon, or whether or not the apprehended youth was accused of more than one offence, may offer insight into the differential charging of male and female youth for certain crimes. For example, police-reported data reveal that compared to female youth (24%), higher proportions of male youth were involved in robberies where a weapon was present (41%). As well, male youth (45%) charged with robbery were more likely than female youth (36%) charged with this crime to be accused of three or more offences in addition to the robbery. Such was not the case, however, for male and female youth charged with break and enters, where 29% of female youth so charged were also accused of other offences as were 24% of male youth.¹⁷

The proportion of accused youth cleared by means other than charges increased following the introduction of the YCJA

One of the primary objectives of the YCJA is to divert more youth involved in minor, non-violent crimes from the formal justice system. Furthermore, the YCJA "...formalizes and structures the police use of discretion..." (Carrington and Schulenberg, 2005: 5) providing police with specific legislative guidance to encourage the use of extrajudicial measures and sanctions for youth accused of less serious offences. Thus, the subsequent increase in the proportion of youth processed through means other than charges following the introduction of the YCJA is not unexpected. Moreover, research assessing the preliminary impact of the YCJA on police use of measures other than charges shows that, at least initially, these practices changed to coincide with the implementation of the YCJA (Carrington and Schulenberg, 2005).

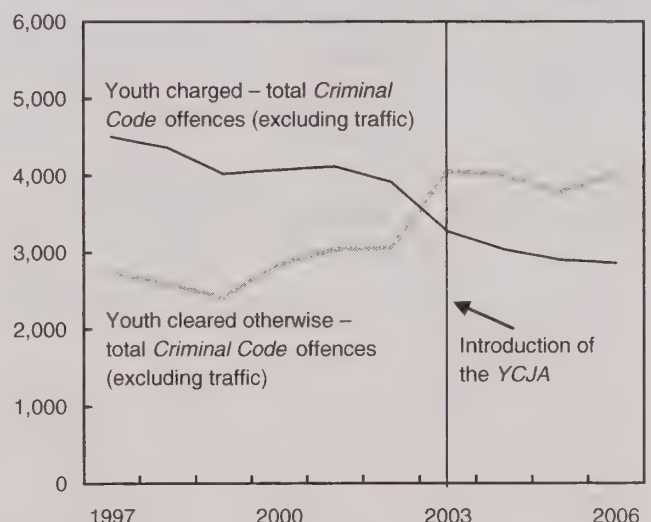
Hence, despite a 3% year-over-year increase in the total youth crime rate in 2006, the rate of youth charged dropped 1% from the previous year and 27% since 2002, the year prior to the enactment of the YCJA. Accordingly, this decrease in the youth charge rate was accompanied by a corresponding rise in the rate of accused youth dealt with through other means. In 2006, the rate of accused youth not charged was up 6% over the previous year and was 32% above the 2002 rate (Chart 2).

Over the last decade, the proportion of youth apprehended by police but not formally charged or recommended for charging has generally been on the rise (Chart 3). Until 2002, this upward

Chart 2

Rates of youth formally charged down while those cleared otherwise up since introduction of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)

rate per 100,000 youth¹



1. Youth aged 12 to 17.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

trend was gradual. However, in the period immediately following the introduction of the *YCJA*, the relative number of cases where youth were handled through means other than charges climbed sharply. Over the six-year period from 1997 to 2002, the proportion of youth accused of a *Criminal Code* offence but not charged ranged from 37% to 44%. However, over the one-year period from 2002 to 2003, this proportion climbed to 55%. Since the *YCJA* came into force in 2003, the proportion of accused youth cleared otherwise¹⁸ has remained relatively stable with measures other than charges used in almost 60% of youth crimes in 2006.

Subsequent to the implementation of the *YCJA*, the proportion of accused youth who were cleared by means other than a charge increased for virtually all offences (Table 4). Despite this change, the crimes that were most likely to result in charges prior to the *YCJA* remained as such after the new legislation came into force. For example, after the introduction of the *YCJA*, charges continued to be the norm for offences associated with the most severe penalties, such as homicide, attempted murder and aggravated assault. Correspondingly, offences carrying less serious penalties, such as disturbing the peace, mischief of \$5,000 and under and minor theft, were still among those least likely to result in charges.

Changes in the proportion of youth charged since the *YCJA* are especially notable for certain *Criminal Code* offences

Since the *YCJA* came into effect, there have been pervasive changes in the use of means other than charges to handle

Text box 2

Decline in the proportion charged after the *YCJA* greater for female youth

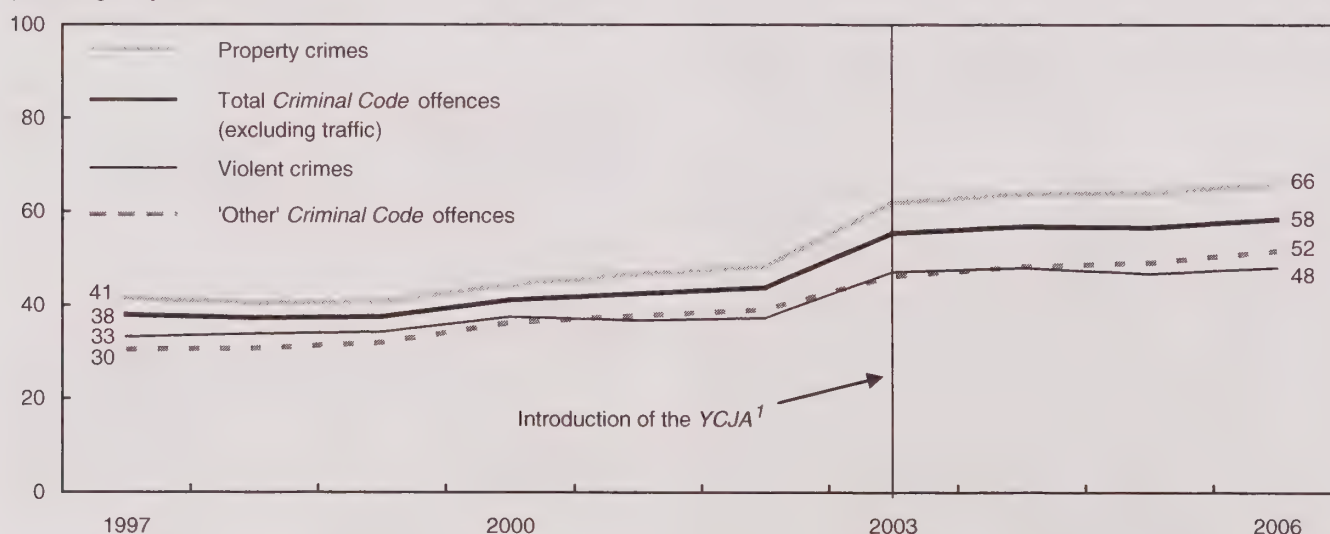
Following a longstanding trend, the majority (77%) of youth charged with a criminal offence in 2006 were male, with male youth charged with an offence at three times the rate of female youth (4,285 per 100,000 males compared to 1,366 females). In the 10 years between 1997 and 2006, police charges declined for both male (-38%) and female (-34%) youth. However, since 2002 and the introduction of the *YCJA*, decreases in charge rates have been more pronounced for female youth (-31%) than for male youth (-25%). This difference is likely related to the different types of offences that each group typically commits. For example, the proportion of female youth charged with minor theft was nearly twice that of young males. Minor, non-violent offences, such as theft of \$5,000 and under, are more likely to be targeted for diversion under the *YCJA*.

youth crime, particularly for youth accused of certain offences (Table 3). For example, in 2006, the proportions of youth cleared otherwise for possession of stolen goods and bail violations were more than double what they had been in the year prior to the *YCJA*'s implementation. As well, just over a third (38%) of youth fraud offences were cleared by means other than charges in 2002. However after the *YCJA* came into force, more than half (54% in 2006) of youth accused of fraud offences were cleared otherwise. Even among offences where historically a majority of the accused were cleared otherwise, following the implementation of the *YCJA*, there were increases in the proportion of youth handled through means other than charges

Chart 3

Proportion of accused youth cleared by means other than formal charges has grown across all major *Criminal Code* offence categories

percentage of youth accused



1. Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

(Table 3). For instance, about 80% of youth accused of minor mischief offences were cleared otherwise in 2006, up from two-thirds in 2002. Similarly, in 2006, three-quarters of minor thefts resulted in the accused youth being cleared by means other than charges compared to 56% in 2002. And while just under half (48%) of youth accused of common assault were cleared otherwise prior to the *YCJA*, in 2006 the figure was up to just over 60%.

Greater use of warnings and cautions

Detailed information on how youth cleared by means other than by charges are handled is not available through the UCR Survey prior to 2003. However, since that time, the use of warnings and cautions has generally increased among the extrajudicial means used to process youth accused of a crime. For example, a third of youth cleared by means other than charges were issued a warning or caution in 2003. By 2006, this figure was up to more than 4 in 10 youth cleared otherwise. Meanwhile, there has been little change in the extent to which referrals are used, and the use of means not otherwise classified has shown a slight decline. Furthermore, this usage pattern among the various types of diversion used for youth accused of crime was generally similar across the major offence categories.

Changes also seen in youth courts and correctional services post-*YCJA* implementation

Coinciding with reductions in the use of charging by police to handle youth accused of a crime and commensurate with the objectives of the new legislation, the number of cases coming to youth courts has dropped noticeably since the *YCJA* came into force. Furthermore, since the introduction of the *YCJA*, there has been a marked decline in the use of custody for youth found guilty.

Between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, the years immediately preceding and following the introduction of the *YCJA*, there was an unprecedented annual drop in the number of cases completed in youth courts (Thomas, 2005). By 2005/2006, the youth court caseload was down 26% over 2002/2003 (Statistics Canada, 2007). Caseload declines were greatest for cases involving property-related crimes such as theft, break and enter, and fraud — offences for which there were also notable increases in the use of measures other than charges by police. In the first year of the *YCJA*, the number of cases for property offences dropped 19% over 2002/2003, while the caseload for violent crimes was down 9%. By 2005/2006, caseloads for property-related and violent offences were down 31% and 18%, respectively, from 2002/2003.

In addition to diverting youth accused of minor, non-violent offences from the formal justice system, the *YCJA* also aims to reduce reliance on remand and sentenced custody and ensure that custodial sentences are not overused. Consistent with this objective, the proportion of guilty cases sentenced to custody has decreased from about 27% prior to the new legislation to about 18% in 2005/2006 (Statistics Canada, 2007). Decreases in the use of custody varied by offence but, overall, declines were recorded for virtually all types of youth crime.

Not unexpectedly, changes were also seen in youth correctional services after the *YCJA* was implemented. Within the first year following the introduction of the *YCJA*, the incarceration rate¹⁹ for youth fell 38% from 15 per 10,000 youth to 9, the largest drop in about a decade. In 2004/2005, the incarceration rate remained stable then declined further to 8 per 10,000 youth in 2005/2006.

Admissions to custody were gradually decreasing prior to the introduction of the *YCJA* in 2003. However, a year after the legislation was implemented, total custodial admissions were down markedly, dropping 25% between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. Two years after the enactment of the *YCJA*, admissions to custody were down 30% compared to 2002/2003 (Calverley, 2006; 2007).

Reductions in admissions to both secure and open sentenced custody were larger than decreases in remand (pre-trial detention) admissions. By 2004/2005, sentenced custody²⁰ admissions were nearly half of what they were in 2002/2003 (i.e., secure custody was down 48% and open custody was down 45%), whereas remand admissions were lower by 20%. Under the *YCJA*, the provisions for remanding high-risk offenders remain the same as under the *YOA*, which in turn, may offer some explanation for why the magnitude of change is smaller for remand admissions compared to admissions to sentenced custody (Calverley, 2006).

It is likely that the implementation of the *YCJA* has also contributed to a decrease in the use of probation. Under the former *YOA*, youth found guilty and sentenced to custody were often ordered to probation as well to ensure supervision and integration into the community after custodial sentences had been served. However, under the *YCJA*, mandatory community supervision upon release from custody is automatically built into youth custody sentences. Accordingly, the percentage of guilty cases sentenced to probation fell from 70% to 60% between 2002/2003 and 2005/2006 (Statistics Canada, 2007). Moreover, from 2002/2003 to 2003/2004, probation admissions dropped 34% and continued to decline, but less dramatically in the following year. In 2004/2005, probation admissions were down 20% over the previous year and were 43% lower than 2002/2003 figures (Calverley, 2007).

The *YCJA* has also offered courts new sentencing options such as deferred custody and supervision orders, intensive support and supervision, and orders to attend a non-residential program. Of these new sentencing options, deferred custody and supervision orders were most frequently issued, representing 3% of guilty cases in 2005/2006 (Statistics Canada, 2007).

Community portions of custody and supervision orders (CPCS), as well as deferred custody and supervision orders, two of the new community sentence options made available through the *YCJA*, represented almost one-tenth (9%) of correctional services admissions in 2004/2005. While 2004/2005 admissions to CPCS were stable over the previous year, admissions to deferred custody and supervision increased 16% in its second year of usage (Calverley, 2007).

Summarizing youth crime in 2006

In 2006, the youth crime rate was 3% higher than the previous year, but 6% lower than the rate 10 years earlier. The overall decline in youth crime rates between 1997 and 2006 was driven by decreases in rates of youth property offences such as minor theft and break and enter. In contrast, youth violent crime rates, particularly for assault, increased, as did rates for 'other' *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief and disturbing the peace.

Involvement in drug-related crimes was also up among youth in 2006. Crime rates for youth accused of cannabis-related offences, which constituted 84% of youth drug crimes, were nearly twice what they had been 10 years prior, while rates for cocaine and other drug violations had more than doubled.

In 2006, almost 60% of youth implicated in an offence did not face charges but were dealt with through alternate means such as warnings, cautions, community programs and extrajudicial programs. Since the introduction of the *YCJA* in 2003, the use of these alternate measures to handle youth accused of a crime has increased for almost all *Criminal Code* offences. Despite this overall decline in charging among accused youth, those implicated in more serious crimes were still among the most likely to face charges, while youth apprehended for less serious offences continued to be among the least likely to be formally charged or recommended for charging.

Data sources

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The UCR Survey was developed in 1962 with the cooperation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. UCR Survey data reflects reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation from all separate

federal, provincial and municipal police services in Canada. There are currently two versions of the UCR Survey: aggregate and incident-based microdata.

Aggregate UCR Survey

The Aggregate UCR Survey includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim or incident characteristics. Coverage of the UCR Survey in 2006 was at 99.9% of the caseload of all police services in Canada. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on Aggregate Survey counts. The overall "youth crime rate" includes all *Criminal Code* offences except traffic violations for youth aged 12 to 17. It does not include other federal statutes such as drug offences.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey

The Incident-based UCR2 Survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Police services switch over from the Aggregate to the Incident-based Survey as their records management systems become capable of providing this level of detail. Coverage of the UCR2 Survey for 2006 represented 90% of the population in Canada.

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Trend Database

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data, which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and accused-victim relationships. This database currently includes 63 police services in 6 provinces who have supplied data to the UCR2 Survey for the complete years from 1998 to 2006. These respondents accounted for 52.8% of the population of Canada in 2006. This list of respondents will remain unchanged until large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have

Text box 3

Key terminology and definitions

Youth crime rate includes youth, aged 12 to 17, accused of a criminal offence and formally charged, recommended to the Crown for charging by police or cleared by means other than the laying of a charge. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17 in the population.

Violent offences involve the use or threatened use of violence against a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault and robbery. Robbery is considered a violent offence because, unlike other theft offences, it involves the use or threat of violence.

Homicide, the most serious of all criminal acts, includes first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

Assault is classified into three levels: level 1 or common assault, the least serious form including behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face threats; level 2 assault, defined as assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm; and level 3 aggravated assault, defined as assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1, the category of least physical injury to the victim; level 2, sexual assault with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm; and level 3, sexual assault that wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers the life of the victim.

Property offences involve unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person. They include offences such as break and enter, theft and fraud.

'Other' Criminal Code offences include crimes such as mischief, disturbing the peace, arson, offensive weapon use, bail violations, prostitution and counterfeiting currency.

Drug-related offences include offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* such as importation, exportation, trafficking, production and possession of drugs or narcotics. Examples include cannabis/marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and other drugs such as crystal meth, PCP, LSD and ecstasy.

provided at least five years of data to the UCR2 Survey, at which point they will become part of this Trend Database. The coverage provided by these services in the Trend Database is distributed as follows: 44.1% from Quebec, 38.5% from Ontario, 10.6% from Alberta, 3.4% from British Columbia, 2.6% from Saskatchewan, and 0.7% from New Brunswick.

For more detailed information on the UCR and UCR2 Surveys, please refer to: http://www.statcan.ca/cgi-bin/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=get_Survey&SDDS=3302&lang=en&db=IMDB&dbg=f&adm=8&dis=2.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada.

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Endnotes

1. Unless otherwise stated, data used in this section come largely from the Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. For more information see the "Data sources" section of this report.
2. Annual changes in youth crime rates for the territories are not presented here, since the territories can have large year-over-year fluctuations due to their relatively small populations.
3. Table 1 indicates a total of 85 youth as it includes one accused under the age of 12.
4. Data on weapons present in youth crimes in 2006 come from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey which captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Coverage of the UCR2 survey for 2006 represented 90% of the population in Canada. For more information see the "Data sources" section of this report.
5. Data on trends in weapons present in youth crimes come from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Trend Database. The UCR2 Trend Database currently includes 63 police services in 6 provinces who have supplied data to the UCR2 survey for the complete years from 1998 to 2006. These respondents accounted for 52.8% of the population of Canada in 2006. For more information on the UCR2 Trend Database, see the "Data sources" section of this report.
6. The present report provides a general examination of incidents of youth crime where a weapon was present. For information on youth accused of firearm-related violent crimes, please see the *Juristat*, "Firearms and violent crime" by Mia Dauvergne and Leonardo De Socio (Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 28, no. 2).
7. "Offensive weapons" refers to all weapon-related offences including illegal firearms usage (e.g., using a firearm in the commission of an offence or pointing a firearm); illegal possession of a weapon (e.g., having an unregistered firearm or failing to possess a license to possess a firearm); weapons importation, exportation and trafficking; and other weapon offences (e.g., careless use, illegal destruction of a firearm, tampering with serial numbers).
8. Edmonton Police Service, <http://www.police.edmonton.ab.ca/Pages/NET/index.asp> (accessed April 2, 2008).
9. Ontario Provincial Police. 2005. Provincial Business Plan. Drug Enforcement/Traffic. http://www.opp.ca/Intranetdev/groups/public/documents/webpage/opp_000690.pdf (accessed April 2, 2008).
10. With the exception of the data on trends in youth crime at schools, data for this section come largely from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey. Data on trends in youth crime at school come from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Trend Database. For more information on the UCR2 Trend Database, please see "Data Sources" section of this report.

11. Refers to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Trend Database; the UCR2 Trend Database currently includes 63 police services in 6 provinces who have supplied data to the UCR2 Survey for the complete years from 1998 to 2006. These respondents accounted for 52.8% of the population of Canada in 2006. For more information on the UCR2 Trend Database, see the "Data sources" section of this report.
12. Ibid.
13. Refers to the Aggregate Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey; see the "Data sources" section of this report for more information.
14. Throughout this report the term 'charged' is used to refer to incidents where formal charges were laid by police or where the accused has been recommended to the Crown for charging by police.
15. Youth handled through 'other means' includes such measures as cases where departmental discretion is exercised by police; the complainant declines to lay charges; the accused is under the age of 12; the accused has diplomatic immunity; or the accused is referred to some other type of diversionary program.
16. Data on warnings, cautions, community programs, extrajudicial programs and other alternatives to charging used by police come from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.
17. Information on the most serious weapon present during the commission of a criminal incident is collected for crimes involving a violent violation and thus, would not include property offences such as break and enter.
18. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youth, this could include formal measures such as a police caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or referral to a community program. Processing by other means could mean that the youth is involved in other incident(s) in which charges have been laid or it could refer to the committal to a mental hospital and death of accused.
19. The incarceration rate is the average daily number of young persons in custody per 10,000 youth aged 12 to 17 in the population.
20. Sentenced custody includes both open and secure custody. Under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, each province or territory must have at least two levels of custody which are distinguished by the degree of restraint of the young persons within them. For conventional purposes, this *Juristat* designates the levels of restraint as open and secure custody.

Table 1

Youth accused, charged and cleared by means other than formal charges by selected *Criminal Code* incidents,¹ Canada, 2006

	Youth charged		Youth cleared otherwise ²		Total youth accused		Percent change in total youth crime rate	
	number	rate ³	number	rate ³	number	rate ^{3,4}	2005 to 2006	1997 to 2006
Homicide ⁵	83	3	2	0.1	85	3	17	41
Attempted murder	69	3	5	0.2	74	3	-6	6
Assault - total	14,160	548	16,745	648	30,905	1,196	3	17
Level 1	8,964	347	14,184	549	23,148	896	3	11
Level 2-weapon	4,779	185	2,517	97	7,296	282	3	40
Level 3-aggravated	417	16	44	1.7	461	18	-4	21
Other assaults - total	1,152	45	271	10	1,423	55	-6	13
Unlawfully causing bodily harm	34	1	17	1	51	2	-38	-86
Discharge firearm with intent	31	1	22	0.9	53	2	15	28
Assault against police	825	32	173	7	998	39	-2	97
Assault against other peace-public officers	86	3	14	0.5	100	4	-14	17
Other assaults	176	7	45	2	221	9	-12	-17
Sexual assault - total	1,188	46	963	37	2,151	83	-6	-8
Level 1	1,166	45	944	37	2,110	82	-6	-6
Level 2-weapon	20	1	13	0.5	33	1	-6	-53
Level 3-aggravated	2	0.1	6	0.2	8	0	-1	-70
Other sexual offences	139	5	164	6	303	12	3	1
Abduction	5	0.2	5	0.2	10	0	-10	-5
Robbery	3,704	143	817	32	4,521	175	8	-2
Violent crime - total	20,500	794	18,972	734	39,472	1,528	3	12
Breaking and entering	7,434	288	5,399	209	12,833	497	-10	-47
Motor vehicle theft	3,012	117	2,100	81	5,112	198	-3	-41
Theft over \$5,000	152	6	163	6	315	12	-26	-61
Theft \$5,000 and under - total	9,164	355	27,805	1,076	36,969	1,431	-2	-33
Shoplifting	4,514	175	14,878	576	19,392	751	-1	-46
Other	4,650	180	12,927	500	17,577	680	-4	-7
Possession of stolen goods	4,899	190	2,912	113	7,811	302	8	9
Fraud	1,119	43	1,302	50	2,421	94	-2	-24
Property crime - total	25,780	998	39,681	1,536	65,461	2,534	-3	-34
Mischief	5,681	220	21,374	827	27,055	1,047	12	46
Counterfeiting currency	107	4	145	6	252	10	-23	39
Bail violations	11,327	438	1,325	51	12,652	490	5	33
Disturbing the peace	542	21	8,331	322	8,873	343	14	217
Offensive weapons	1,787	69	1,831	71	3,618	140	1	44
Prostitution	22	1	26	1	48	2	-40	-81
Arson	516	20	976	38	1,492	58	2	1
Kidnapping/forcible confinement	278	11	37	1	315	12	12	66
Other	7,401	286	11,226	435	18,627	721	7	-3
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences - total	27,661	1,071	45,271	1,752	72,932	2,823	9	34
<i>Criminal Code</i> - total (excluding traffic)	73,941	2,862	103,924	4,023	177,865	6,885	3	-6
Drug offences - total	6,382	247	11,509	446	17,891	693	2	97
Heroin	23	1	10	0.4	33	1	174	-54
Cocaine	794	31	202	8	996	39	26	135
Other drugs	828	32	1,075	42	1,903	74	10	156
Cannabis	4,737	183	10,222	396	14,959	579	-1	91

1. Figures presented here include a small number of accused under the age of 12.

2. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youth, this could include formal measures such as a police caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or diversion to a community program. Processing by other means could mean that the youth is involved in other incident(s) in which charges have been laid or it could refer to the commitment to a mental hospital and death of accused.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. In 2006 the population aged 12 to 17 was 2,583,351. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

4. Total youth crime rate.

5. For 2006, the total includes one accused under the age of 12.

Note: Percent change based on unrounded rates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2

Youth accused of selected *Criminal Code* incidents,^{1,2} Canada and the provinces and territories, 2006

Violent crime													
2006 population		Homicide			Assault - level 1, 2, 3			Sexual assault - level 1, 2, 3			Robbery		
	number	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,588	0	0	-100	572	1,482	19	29	75	0	8	21	-17
Prince Edward Island	11,783	0	0	...	141	1,197	-3	9	76	203	2	17	...
Nova Scotia	71,868	0	0	-100	1,413	1,966	9	55	77	-20	109	152	-10
New Brunswick	57,009	0	0	...	841	1,475	12	57	100	-10	16	28	-38
Quebec	581,350	3	1	-77	4,914	845	1	521	90	-7	666	115	8
Ontario	1,017,727	25	2	65	10,746	1,056	-3	796	78	-13	2,405	236	8
Manitoba	102,190	18	18	99	2,267	2,218	20	111	109	25	248	243	5
Saskatchewan	88,910	3	3	-78	2,469	2,777	9	116	130	0	360	405	37
Alberta	278,229	24	9	98	3,671	1,319	8	222	80	6	338	121	-6
British Columbia	324,952	12	4	100	3,276	1,008	2	204	63	4	353	109	14
Yukon	2,697	0	0	...	101	3,745	-2	8	297	38	7	260	623
Northwest Territories	4,197	0	0	...	304	7,243	9	8	191	-52	2	48	-59
Nunavut	3,851	0	0	...	190	4,934	21	15	390	48	7	182	245
Canada	2,583,351	85	3	17	30,905	1,196	3	2,151	83	-6	4,521	175	8

Property crime										
2006 population		Breaking and entering			Motor vehicle theft			Theft \$5,000 and under		
	number	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,588	426	1,104	1	97	251	10	494	1,280	12
Prince Edward Island	11,783	103	874	37	32	272	15	253	2,147	74
Nova Scotia	71,868	522	726	11	195	271	21	1,191	1,657	5
New Brunswick	57,009	386	677	0	94	165	-14	941	1,651	10
Quebec	581,350	1,975	340	-13	869	149	-14	5,015	863	-8
Ontario	1,017,727	3,786	372	-4	1,136	112	-19	14,704	1,445	5
Manitoba	102,190	986	965	-14	497	486	0	1,496	1,464	-1
Saskatchewan	88,910	1,632	1,836	-13	681	766	13	2,598	2,922	-9
Alberta	278,229	1,360	489	-14	869	312	13	4,982	1,791	-13
British Columbia	324,952	1,075	331	-13	501	154	4	4,905	1,509	-5
Yukon	2,697	69	2,558	-16	15	556	11	70	2,595	-28
Northwest Territories	4,197	281	6,695	-18	80	1,906	30	196	4,670	13
Nunavut	3,851	232	6,024	-24	46	1,194	-9	124	3,220	6
Canada	2,583,351	12,833	497	-10	5,112	198	-3	36,969	1,431	-2

'Other' Criminal Code offences										
2006 population		Bail violations			Disturbing the peace			Mischief		
	number	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,588	187	485	9	199	516	28	851	2,205	49
Prince Edward Island	11,783	22	187	39	66	560	48	249	2,113	12
Nova Scotia	71,868	584	813	69	500	696	30	1,363	1,897	11
New Brunswick	57,009	162	284	33	227	398	4	966	1,694	17
Quebec	581,350	494	85	-7	26	4	-1	2,436	419	-3
Ontario	1,017,727	5,391	530	4	934	92	-3	6,643	653	6
Manitoba	102,190	867	848	8	864	845	36	1,733	1,696	28
Saskatchewan	88,910	2,301	2,588	7	905	1,018	34	3,831	4,309	21
Alberta	278,229	1,683	605	-12	2,024	727	16	4,771	1,715	18
British Columbia	324,952	818	252	22	2,661	819	14	3,306	1,017	6
Yukon	2,697	28	1,038	-7	108	4,004	-17	197	7,304	15
Northwest Territories	4,197	77	1,835	16	212	5,051	-12	444	10,579	11
Nunavut	3,851	38	987	10	147	3,817	-8	265	6,881	27
Canada	2,583,351	12,652	490	5	8,873	343	14	27,055	1,047	12

Table 2

Youth accused of selected *Criminal Code* incidents,^{1,2} Canada and the provinces and territories, 2006 (continued)

	2006 population				Violent crime - total ³			Property crime - total ³			Other Criminal Code offences - total ³			Criminal Code - total (excluding traffic) ³		
	number	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate			
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,588	625	1,620	15	1,125	2,915	9	1,638	4,245	36	3,388	8,780	22			
Prince Edward Island	11,783	157	1,332	3	452	3,836	67	499	4,235	32	1,108	9,403	38			
Nova Scotia	71,868	1,633	2,272	5	2,650	3,687	10	3,704	5,154	29	7,987	11,113	17			
New Brunswick	57,009	958	1,680	5	1,563	2,742	1	2,286	4,010	10	4,807	8,432	6			
Quebec	581,350	6,454	1,110	1	8,791	1,512	-9	6,643	1,143	0	21,888	3,765	-6			
Ontario	1,017,727	14,634	1,438	-2	24,987	2,455	2	20,995	2,063	2	60,616	5,956	1			
Manitoba	102,190	2,768	2,709	19	3,469	3,395	-1	5,147	5,037	22	11,384	11,140	14			
Saskatchewan	88,910	3,082	3,466	10	5,616	6,316	-7	9,030	10,156	16	17,728	19,939	7			
Alberta	278,229	4,423	1,590	6	8,505	3,057	-9	11,347	4,078	11	24,275	8,725	2			
British Columbia	324,952	4,074	1,254	4	7,095	2,183	-7	9,753	3,001	7	20,922	6,438	1			
Yukon	2,697	122	4,524	7	166	6,155	-19	401	14,868	0	689	25,547	-4			
Northwest Territories	4,197	325	7,744	1	604	14,391	-3	944	22,492	3	1,873	44,627	1			
Nunavut	3,851	217	5,635	24	438	11,374	-10	545	14,152	17	1,200	31,161	6			
Canada	2,583,351	39,472	1,528	3	65,461	2,534	-3	72,932	2,823	9	177,865	6,885	3			

Drug offences											
2006 population	Heroin				Cocaine				Cannabis		
number	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate		
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,588	0	0	...	0	0	...	73	189	-13	
Prince Edward Island	11,783	0	0	...	1	8	...	28	238	102	
Nova Scotia	71,868	0	0	-100	9	13	-30	320	445	23	
New Brunswick	57,009	0	0	-100	6	11	204	240	421	20	
Quebec	581,350	3	1	197	92	16	0	3,979	684	-10	
Ontario	1,017,727	4	0	...	460	45	28	6,080	597	2	
Manitoba	102,190	0	0	...	70	68	216	273	267	29	
Saskatchewan	88,910	0	0	...	26	29	65	525	590	28	
Alberta	278,229	3	1	...	171	61	16	1,194	429	19	
British Columbia	324,952	23	7	155	158	49	20	2,187	673	-11	
Yukon	2,697	0	0	...	1	37	...	13	482	347	
Northwest Territories	4,197	0	0	...	2	48	-71	39	929	-19	
Nunavut	3,851	0	0	...	0	0	...	8	208	-1	
Canada	2,583,351	33	1	174	996	39	26	14,959	579	-1	

2006 population	Other drugs ⁴				Drugs - total		
number	number	rate	% change in rate	number	rate	% change in rate	
Newfoundland and Labrador	38,588	13	34	-36	86	223	-18
Prince Edward Island	11,783	16	136	102	45	382	107
Nova Scotia	71,868	34	47	11	363	505	19
New Brunswick	57,009	33	58	59	279	489	25
Quebec	581,350	628	108	21	4,702	809	-7
Ontario	1,017,727	765	75	3	7,309	718	4
Manitoba	102,190	53	52	3	396	388	39
Saskatchewan	88,910	44	49	-17	595	669	24
Alberta	278,229	136	49	33	1,504	541	20
British Columbia	324,952	173	53	6	2,541	782	-8
Yukon	2,697	2	74	-31	16	593	175
Northwest Territories	4,197	6	143	-23	47	1,120	-25
Nunavut	3,851	0	0	-100	8	208	-21
Canada	2,583,351	1,903	74	10	17,891	693	2

... not applicable

1. 'Youth accused' includes all youth charged with an offence and those cleared by means other than a charge. The administration of the youth justice system is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Thus, it is important to note that jurisdictional differences in youth crime are, in part, a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada.

2. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

3. Only selected offences are shown and will therefore not add up to the total in each category.

4. 'Other drugs' includes the categories 'restricted drugs', 'controlled drugs', as well as other drugs.

Note: Percent change based on unrounded rates and are in comparison to the previous year's rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3

Youth accused of *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic), charged and cleared by means other than formal charges, Canada, provinces and territories, 2006

	Total youth charged	Total youth cleared otherwise ¹	Total youth accused	Accused youth charged	Accused youth cleared otherwise ¹
	number			percentage	
Canada²	73,941	103,924	177,865	42	58
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,227	2,161	3,388	36	64
Prince Edward Island	347	761	1,108	31	69
Nova Scotia	2,716	5,271	7,987	34	66
New Brunswick	1,833	2,974	4,807	38	62
Quebec	9,099	12,789	21,888	42	58
Ontario	28,531	32,085	60,616	47	53
Manitoba	5,115	6,269	11,384	45	55
Saskatchewan	8,230	9,498	17,728	46	54
Alberta	9,763	14,512	24,275	40	60
British Columbia	6,093	14,829	20,922	29	71
Yukon	180	509	689	26	74
Northwest Territories	497	1,376	1,873	27	73
Nunavut	310	890	1,200	26	74

1. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youth, this could include formal measures such as Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or diversion to a community program. Processing by other means could refer to the committal to a mental hospital and death of accused.
2. The administration of the youth justice system is the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Thus, it is important to note that jurisdictional differences in youth crime are, in part, a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4

Proportion of accused youth cleared by means other than a formal charge by selected *Criminal Code* offences,¹ Canada, 2002, 2003 and 2006

	2006		2003	2002
	Total youth accused of a crime	Accused youth cleared otherwise ⁴	First year of the YCJA ²	Last year of the YOA ³
			Accused youth cleared otherwise ⁴	Accused youth cleared otherwise ⁴
	number	percentage	percentage	
Homicide	85	2	2	0
Attempted murder	74	7	0	2
Assault - level 1	23,148	61	60	48
Assault with weapon or causing bodily harm - level 2	7,296	34	29	23
Aggravated assault - level 3	461	10	7	7
Other assaults	1,423	19	20	15
Sexual assault - total	2,151	45	49	34
Robbery	4,521	18	15	11
Other violent offences	313	54	55	45
Breaking and entering	12,833	42	38	31
Motor vehicle theft	5,112	41	32	28
Theft over \$5,000	315	52	41	34
Theft \$5,000 and under	36,969	75	74	56
Possession of stolen goods	7,811	37	29	16
Fraud	2,421	54	49	38
Mischief \$5,000 and under	25,470	80	78	66
Mischief over \$5,000	1,585	64	61	51
Bail violations	12,652	10	7	4
Disturb the peace	8,873	94	91	87
Offensive weapons	3,618	51	55	43
Arson	1,492	65	61	59
Obstruct public peace officer	954	30	24	19
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	18,288	61	55	46
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic)⁵	177,865	58	55	44

1. Figures presented include a small number of accused under the age of 12.

2. *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

3. *Young Offenders Act*.

4. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youth, this could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or diversion to a community program. Processing by other means could refer to the committal to a mental hospital or the death of an accused.

5. Only selected offences are shown and therefore, will not add up to equal 'Total *Criminal Code* offences (excluding traffic)'.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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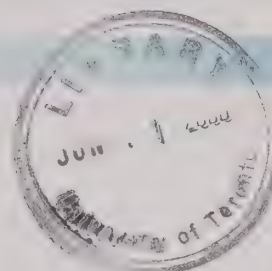
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Youth Court Statistics, 2006/2007

by Jennifer Thomas



Highlights

- In 2006/2007, youth courts in Canada processed 56,463 cases, involving 179,873 charges. Although consistent with the overall caseload in 2005/2006, it is 26% lower than that in 2002/2003, the year prior to the enactment of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA).
- Every province and territory has experienced drops in youth court caseload since the introduction of the YCJA. There were five jurisdictions where the caseload in 2006/2007 was at least 30% lower than in 2002/2003 – Northwest Territories (-52%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-47%), Yukon (-45%), British Columbia (-37%) and Ontario (-30%).
- Over the same period, drops of between 21% to 24% occurred in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta and Nunavut. In the remaining provinces (Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan), the youth court caseloads declined by less than 20%.
- Since reaching a high of 70% in 1998/1999, the proportion of cases where the youth either pleaded guilty or was found guilty has been gradually declining. Sixty percent of cases completed in youth court resulted in a finding of guilt in 2006/2007, the lowest proportion recorded.
- Consistent with the objectives of the YCJA, fewer youth cases are receiving a custodial sentence. In 2006/2007, about 17% or 5,640 of all guilty cases resulted in a sentence to custody. This compares to 13,246 or 27% of all guilty cases in 2002/2003.
- Probation continues to be the most frequently ordered sentence for youth, with 59% of guilty youth cases receiving this sentence in 2006/2007. However, this proportion is 11 percentage points lower than in 2002/2003, the year prior to the enactment of the YCJA.
- The new sentences for youth, as prescribed in the YCJA are not commonly used. In 2006/2007, of the new sentences, deferred custody and supervision orders were handed down most frequently. Of the 34,065 guilty cases, 1,080 (3%) received such an order.
- Youth court cases are becoming more complex. In 2006/2007, 6 out of every 10 cases involved multiple charges. In comparison, in 1991/1992 (the first year for which youth court data are available), multiple charge cases represented 45% of youth court cases.
- Since reaching an all-time high of 164 days in 2003/2004, the mean elapsed time to process a case in youth court has been gradually declining. In 2006/2007, the mean elapsed time from first to last court appearance was 156 days. Despite the decline, the elapsed time is still well above the 131 days in 2002/2003.



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Cases heard in youth court

Fewer youth appearing in court since the enactment of the YCJA

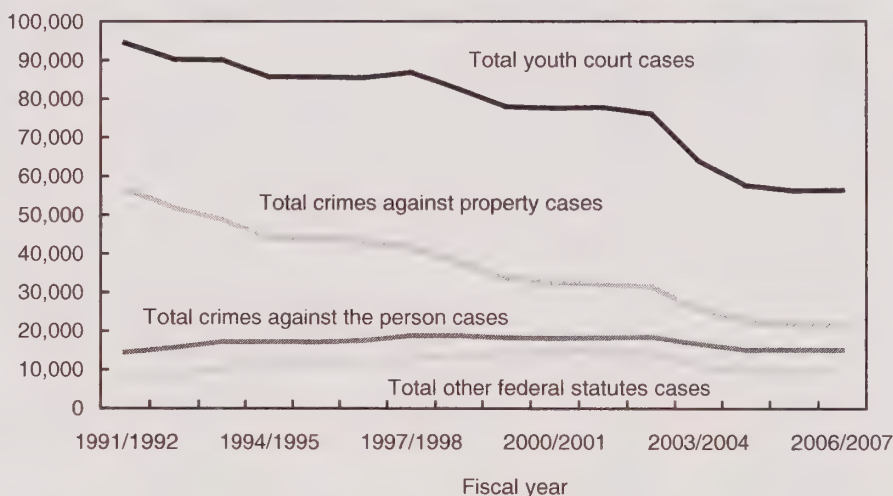
Youth courts in Canada processed 56,463 cases involving 179,873 charges in 2006/2007. Although unchanged from the overall caseload in 2005/2006, it is 26% lower than that in 2002/2003 – the year prior to the enactment of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) (Table 1). The largest decline came in the first year of the new legislation when youth court judges disposed of 16% fewer cases than the year before.

Between 1991/1992¹ and 2002/2003, the number of youth court cases processed each year was already on the decline, primarily due to the steady decline in the number of crimes against property cases² (such as theft, break and enter and mischief), while the number of cases for most other offence categories was generally increasing. While crimes against property cases continued to drop following the enactment of the YCJA (-32% from 2002/2003 to 2006/2007), all other categories of offences dropped significantly as well. For instance, in 2006/2007 there were 34% fewer other federal statute cases³ compared with 2002/2003, and 17% fewer Administration of justice cases (e.g., cases where the accused failed to comply with a recognizance order or failed to appear in court).

Chart 1

Substantial declines in youth court caseload following the enactment of the YCJA

number of cases



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Although crimes against the person cases were 5% higher than the low of 14,469 cases in 1991/1992, the number of cases in this category in 2006/2007 was 18% lower than in 2002/2003. Following an upward trend during the 1990s, crimes against the person cases dropped 9% in the first year of the YCJA and almost 10% in the following year. The level has remained stable since (Chart 1).

In 2006/2007, the types of cases processed in youth courts most often involved crimes against property (38%) and crimes against the person (27%) (Table 2). Less frequent were cases involving offences against the Administration of Justice (9%), offences under the *YCJA* or the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) (8%), other *Criminal Code* offences (8%), drug-related offences (7%), *Criminal Code* traffic offences (2%), and other federal statute offences (2%).

Ten offences accounted for three-quarters of the total youth court caseload

As in past years, a small number of offences accounted for a large proportion of the youth court caseload in 2006/2007. Together, the ten most frequent offences represented three-quarters (75%) of total cases (Chart 2).

Four of the most frequent offences were in the crimes against property category: theft accounted for 14% of the total completed caseload, while break and enter accounted for 9%, and mischief and possession of stolen property for 7% and 6%, respectively.

While common assault cases accounted for 1 in 10 cases in youth court overall, they made up almost 4 in 10 crimes against the person cases in youth courts. Major assault (23%), robbery (15%) and uttering threats (14%) were the other most common types of crimes against the person cases. Homicide (which includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide) and

attempted murder together amounted to a very small proportion of crimes against the person cases heard in youth courts (less than 0.5%). There were 40 cases of homicide and 23 cases of attempted murder disposed of in 2006/2007 in which a young person was the accused.

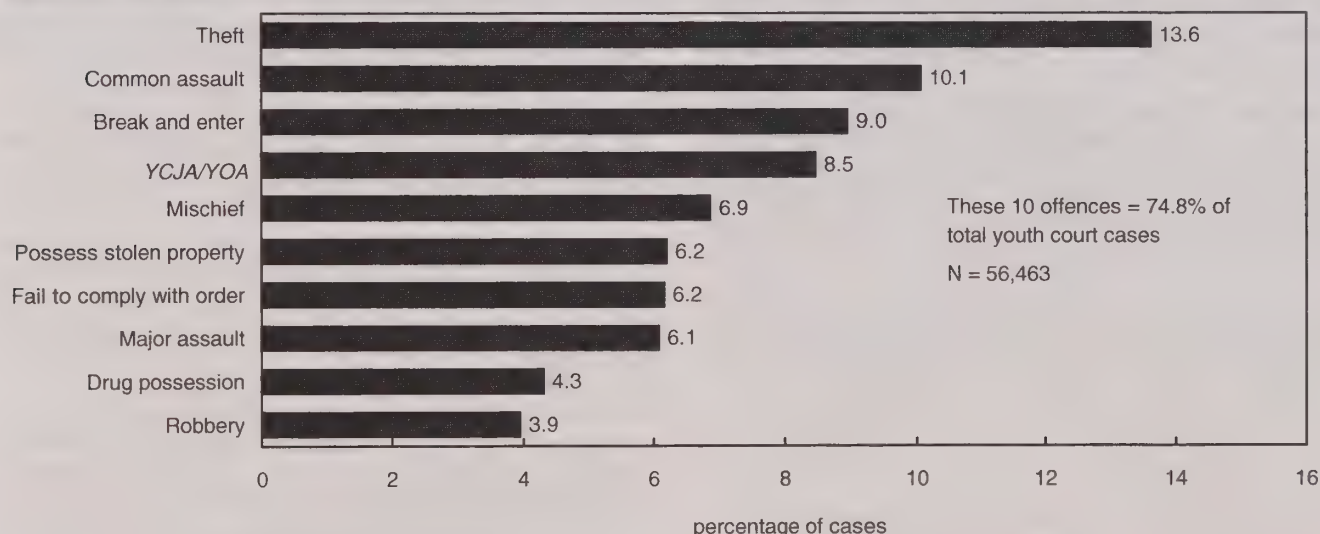
Drop in youth court caseload seen across the country

Since the introduction of the *YCJA*, the drop in youth court caseload at the national level has been seen across the country. Among the provinces and territories, there were five jurisdictions where the caseload in 2006/2007 was at least 30% lower than in 2002/2003 – Northwest Territories (-52%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-47%), Yukon (-45%), British Columbia (-37%) and Ontario (-30%). Over the same period, drops of between 21% to 24% occurred in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta and Nunavut. In the remaining provinces (Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan), the youth court caseloads dropped by less than 20% (Table 3).

Although the youth court caseload in every province and territory was much lower than it was under the last year of the *YOA*, several provinces and territories experienced an increase in caseload from 2005/2006. Prince Edward Island youth courts completed 17% more cases, while Yukon, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba experienced increases of 10%, 8%, 6% and 3%, respectively.

Chart 2

Ten offences accounted for three-quarters of the youth court caseload in 2006/2007



Note: *YCJA/YOA* offences are primarily the failure to comply with a disposition.
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Differences across the country in the reporting of criminal incidents to police, in procedures and eligibility requirements for police diversion and extrajudicial measures programs, and differences in provincial policy directing Crown discretion will influence the volume and characteristics of cases heard in youth courts. Pre-charge screening by the Crown is mandatory in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia. Processes such as these serve to keep less serious cases out of the court system and reduce court workload. These factors should be considered when making inter-jurisdictional comparisons.

Text box 1

Youth and youth crime in context

- Population – 2006⁴
 - Total Canadian population was 32.6 million with 2.6 million youth aged 12 to 17 years (8% of total).
- Persons charged by police in 2006^{5,6}
 - 629,497 adults and youths were charged with federal offences.
 - 85,947 (14%) of these were youth.
- Cases processed in youth court, 2006/2007⁵
 - 56,463 cases were heard in youth courts in 2006/2007.
 - This is stable compared to the 2005/2006 caseload of 56,271, but is 26% lower than in 2002/2003 (the year prior to the enactment of the YCJA).
- Convictions in youth court, 2006/2007
 - 34,065 cases (60%) resulted in a conviction in 2006/2007.

Characteristics of youth appearing in court

Over half of youth court cases involved 16- and 17-year-olds

Youth who appear in court tend to be older. In 2006/2007, 16-year olds accounted for 26% of cases and 17-year-olds, 30%.⁷ Accused persons aged 15 years appeared in 21% of all cases, while those aged 14, 13, and 12 years showed proportionally less involvement, accounting for 13%, 6% and 2% of cases, respectively (Table 4).

Males accounted for 73% of youth court cases and they predominated in all age groups. While the proportion of cases against males increased with age, half of the cases⁸ where the accused was female involved 15- and 16-year olds.

Case processing

Youth court cases becoming more complex

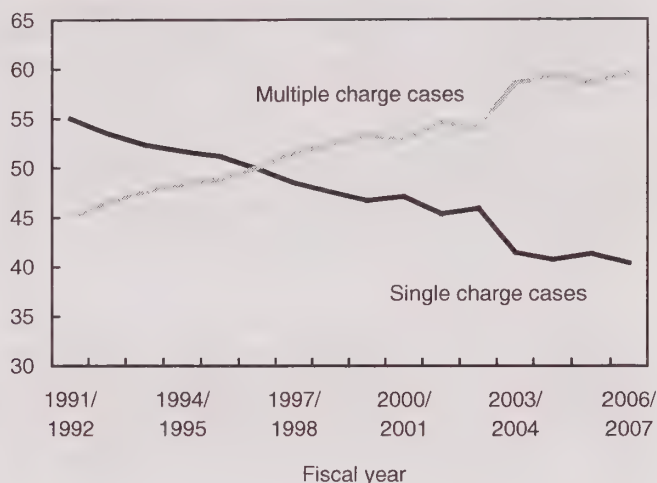
Multiple-charge cases⁹ are often complex and more serious. In 1991/1992, the first year for which youth court data are available, youth court cases with more than one charge represented 45% of the total caseload. However, the proportion of youth court cases with multiple charges gradually increased throughout the 1990s – on average by 1 percentage point

per year, and continued into the next decade (Chart 3). In 2003/2004, the first year under the YCJA, the increase was more than 4 percentage points over the previous year, bringing the proportion of multiple-charge cases to 59%. This proportion has remained stable since.

Chart 3

The proportion of multiple charge cases is on the rise in youth courts

percentage of total cases



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Since reaching an all-time high of 164 days in 2003/2004, the average¹⁰ elapsed time to process a case in youth court (from the time of the youth's first court appearance to the date of decision or sentencing) has been gradually declining. In 2006/2007, the average time from first to last court appearance for all cases was 156 days. Despite the decline, the average elapsed time is well above the 131 days in the year prior to the enactment of the YCJA (Chart 4).

Both single charge cases and multiple charge cases are taking longer to process, averaging 130 days and 173 days, respectively in 2006/2007. This compares to 105 days for single charge cases and 153 days for multiple charge cases in 2002/2003.

In 2006/2007, prostitution cases, on average, took the longest to complete (414 days), followed by cases of homicide (369 days). Sexual assault and other sexual offences (including voyeurism and sexual interference) had mean elapsed times of 284 and 266 days, respectively. The shortest mean elapsed time occurred for the offence of being unlawfully at large (69 days) (Table 5).

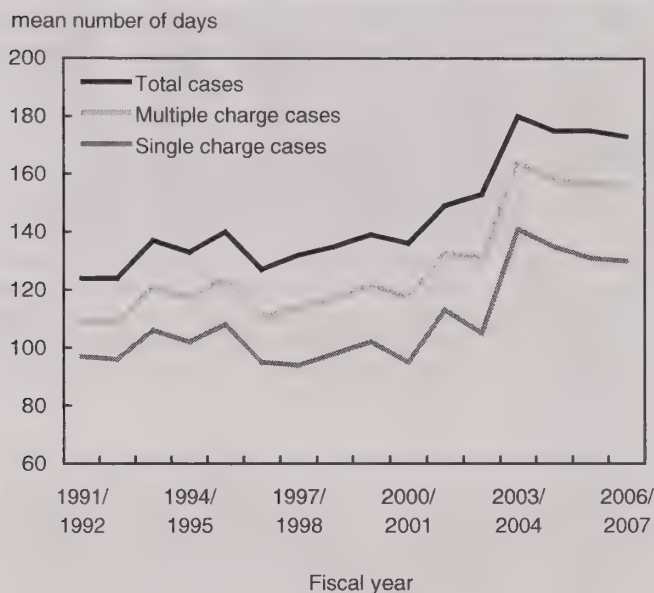
Saskatchewan had the longest mean elapsed time to process a case at 182 days, followed by Manitoba (177 days), Nova Scotia (171 days), Ontario (161 days) and Yukon (155 days). Prince

Edward Island had the shortest mean elapsed time (51 days), followed by the Northwest Territories (61 days).

In 2006/2007, about six out of every ten cases (58%) were processed in four months or less, with 6% of cases taking longer than a year. Nine percent of cases were completed at the first court appearance.

Chart 4

Youth court cases are taking longer to process



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Youth courts may be hearing lengthier cases as a result of less serious cases being diverted away from the court process as per the principles and objectives of extrajudicial measures under the YCJA, reserving court for the more serious cases. Less serious cases may not proceed to court, but rather be dealt with by the police in the form of extrajudicial measures such as police warnings or cautions and referrals to community programs. Further vetting of charges by the Crown may result in additional charges less serious in nature being handled in some manner other than proceeding to court (e.g., Crown caution or extrajudicial sanction).

Overview of youth court case outcomes

Six out of ten cases result in guilt

Cases with a finding or plea of guilt accounted for 60% of cases disposed in youth courts in 2006/2007 (Table 6).¹¹ Twenty-two percent of cases were withdrawn or dismissed. Proceedings were stayed in 16% of cases, and 1% resulted in an acquittal.

The proportion of guilty verdicts varied among offence categories.¹² Cases where the youth was accused of being unlawfully at large were found guilty most often (91%), followed by impaired driving (83%), offences under the YCJA (82%) and other *Criminal Code* traffic offence cases (80%). Attempted murder cases recorded the lowest proportion of guilty findings (26%), followed by prostitution (32%), criminal harassment (41%) and drug possession (43%) (Table 7).

The proportion of guilty cases reached a low in 2006/2007

Since reaching a high of 70% in 1998/1999, the proportion of cases where the accused either pleaded guilty or was found guilty has been gradually declining. The figure for 2006/2007 (60%), is the lowest proportion over the entire period that data have been collected for youth courts in Canada.¹³

The proportion of cases resulting in guilt has declined for many different types of cases. However, much of the decrease comes from the higher volume cases, especially crimes against property cases, where the proportion fell from 69% of cases in 1998/1999 to 55% in 2006/2007. For example, the proportion of guilty cases for both theft and break and enter declined by 14 percentage points over this period, and possession of stolen property by 11.

Although other major offence categories experienced notable declines in the proportion of guilty cases, there were variations from the trend when examining individual offences within the category. For example, in 2006/2007, the overall proportion of crimes against the person cases resulting in guilt was 5 percentage points lower than in 2002/2003. While the proportion of guilty cases for criminal harassment, robbery and common assault has generally declined, there have been considerable fluctuations in the proportions for homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault, other sexual offences and other crimes against the person.

The proportion of guilty cases varies considerably from one jurisdiction to another

The proportion of cases resulting in a guilty finding ranged from 46% in Yukon to 88% in New Brunswick (Table 6). This proportion in all other jurisdictions ranged between 55% and 76%. There are several possible factors that influence variations in the proportion of cases found guilty. First, some jurisdictions use diversion programs to a greater extent which may reduce the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Second, the use of stays and withdrawals varies across the country. Cases that are stayed or withdrawn are often indicative of charges set aside pending completion of extrajudicial/alternative measures or diversion programs, or the systematic use of these decisions for administrative purposes. For example, more than one-half (51%) of cases were stayed, withdrawn or dismissed in Yukon, compared with 11% in New Brunswick. Third, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in New Brunswick, Quebec, and British Columbia, may also affect the percentage of convictions through increased vetting of charges.

Sentencing in youth court

The *YCJA* provides legislative direction to judges in sentencing youth who have been convicted of a criminal offence, by including statements of purpose, principles and factors with which judges must comply when imposing youth sentences. In sentencing a youth under the *YCJA*, a judge must consider a sentence that holds the youth accountable, ensures meaningful consequences for him or her and promotes his or her rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The sentence must be "proportionate to the seriousness of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the young person for that offence".¹⁴ All reasonable alternatives to custody must be considered before a judge may impose a custodial sentence. For the most part, custody is to be saved for violent offenders and serious repeat offenders.

Many of the alternatives to custody that a judge may consider, in accordance with the purpose and principles of sentencing, existed under the *YOA*; however, several new sentences were introduced in the *YCJA*, including, intensive support and supervision, deferred custody and supervision, orders to attend a non-residential program and reprimands.¹⁵

Provinces and territories vary in terms of when they began providing *YCJA* sentencing data,¹⁶ therefore caution should be exercised when comparing these data.¹⁷ In years where the *YCJA* sentencing details were not available, they have been included in the "Other" category.

New *YCJA* sentences not common

In 2006/2007, of the new sentences under the *YCJA*, deferred custody and supervision orders were handed down most frequently. Of the 34,065 guilty cases, 1,080 (3%) received such an order. Six offences accounted for about 64% of cases ordered to deferred custody and supervision - *YCJA* offences, major assault, robbery, break and enter, common assault and other *Criminal Code* offences (Table 8).

Additionally, there were 724 reprimands handed down, accounting for 2% of guilty cases, 347 orders to intensive support and supervision programs (1%) and 213 orders to attend a non-residential program (less than 1%). Combined, these new sentences were given in 7% of all guilty cases.

Custody has become less likely in youth court cases

Consistent with the objectives of the *YCJA*, not only are there fewer youth appearing in court, fewer are being sentenced to custody. In 2006/2007, about 17% or 5,640 of all guilty cases resulted in a custodial sentence. This compares to 13,246 or 27% of all guilty cases in 2002/2003 (Table 10).

Custody is frequently ordered for serious violent offences under crimes against the person (Table 8). For example, in 2006/2007, 15 of the 21 guilty homicide cases (71%) and 5 of the 6 attempted murder cases where the youth was found guilty (83%) resulted in a sentence of custody. Although this proportion may seem low, custodial sentences may be affected

by time spent in pre-trial detention, particularly for more serious offences where time spent in custody prior to the decision of the court and sentencing is more likely to take place, and this may have been considered 'time served'.

Cases in which the youth was found guilty of being unlawfully at large also frequently received a custodial sentence (67%).

Almost half of custodial sentences are less than one month

In 2006/2007, 46% of cases resulting in custody and supervision were for terms of less than 1 month.¹⁸ Twenty-six percent were for terms of 1 to 3 months, 17% were for greater than 3 months and up to a 6-month term, and 7% were for terms longer than 6 months.¹⁹ The mean sentence length was 72 days (Table 12), which is also the average for the last 10 years of reported data.

The use of custody varies across Canada

In 2006/2007, the use of custody and supervision ranged from 8% of cases with convictions in Manitoba to 34% in the Yukon (Table 9, Chart 5). This variation in the use of custody may reflect the influence of several factors. For example, the severity of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, rates of repeat offending can be different, the availability of suitable alternatives to custody may vary, and the availability of custodial facilities can vary.

All provinces and territories have experienced significantly large decreases in both the numbers and proportions of guilty youth cases receiving custodial sentences since the first year of the *YCJA*.

In terms of the actual number of guilty cases being sentenced to custody, the impact is pronounced. Nunavut experienced the smallest decline (-45%) over the 2002/2003 to 2006/2007 period. In all other provinces and territories, in 2006/2007, the number of cases where the youth was found guilty and received a sentence to custody was down more than 50% from what it was in the final year of the *YOA* (Table 10).

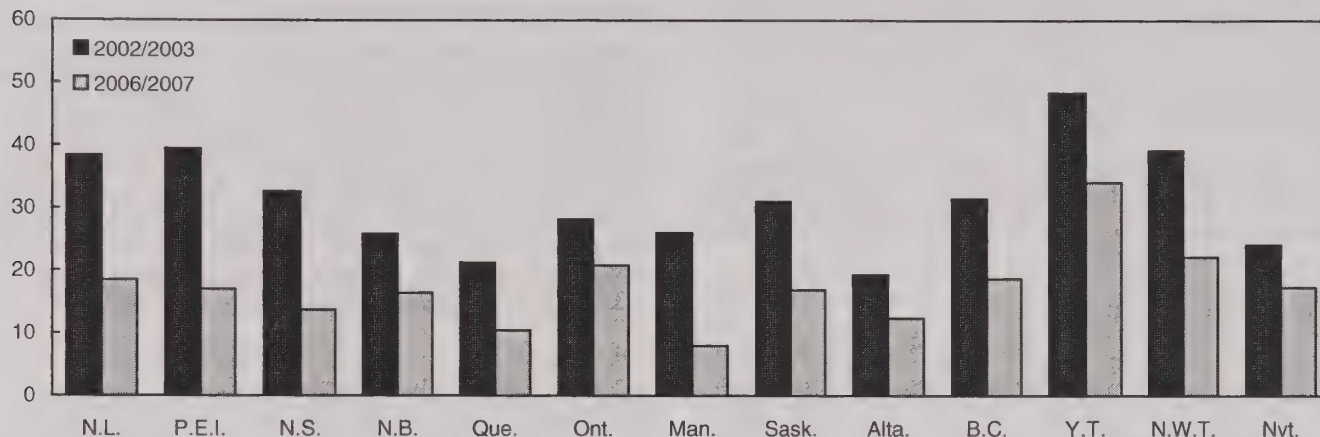
Probation is still the most common sentence for youth, but it too is on the decline

Cases in which the youth was found guilty can have more than one sentence and when accounting for multiple sentences, probation was ordered in 59% of all guilty cases in 2006/2007, far more than any other type of sentence (Table 11). However, this is much lower than the proportion in 2002/2003, when 70% of all guilty cases received a sentence of probation (Chart 6). This may be due in part to the fact that under the *YOA*, youth custody sentences were often followed by a period of probation to ensure some form of supervision on reintegration into the community. Under the *YCJA* however, all youth custody sentences have a mandatory period of supervision on release built into the sentence. Additionally, a portion of cases that may have received probation under the *YOA* may have received some sort of extrajudicial measure under the *YCJA*.

Chart 5

The proportion of guilty youth cases sentenced to custody has declined since the enactment of the YCJA

percentage of guilty cases
sentenced to custody

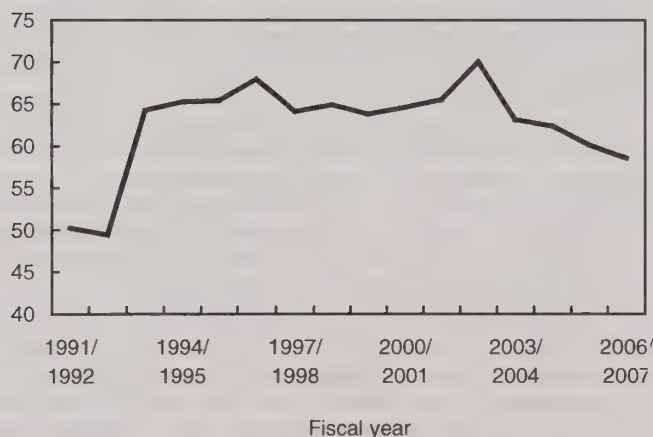


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Chart 6

The proportion of guilty youth cases sentenced to probation has also declined since the enactment of the YCJA

percentage of guilty cases
sentenced to probation



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

In 2006/2007, probation (often in combination with other types of sentences) was ordered most frequently for guilty youth cases involving crimes against the person (68%) followed

by crimes against property (63%) and other *Criminal Code* offences (61%) such as weapons and disturbing the peace (Table 8). A smaller proportion of guilty cases involving *Criminal Code* traffic offences and offences against the Administration of Justice (43% for each) resulted in a probation sentence.

More specifically, probation was frequently ordered in youth cases involving attempted murder (83%), sexual assault (78%), other sexual offences (78%), other crimes against the person (78%), drug trafficking (74%), break and enter (73%), robbery (73%) and other property crimes (72%).

As with the YOA, under the YCJA, youth courts may sentence a young offender to probation for a maximum of two years. In 2006/2007, the mean sentence length for probation sentences was one year (Table 12). Twenty percent of cases with a probation sentence were for a period of 6 months or less, 51% ranged from greater than 6 months to 12 months, and 23% were for more than 12 months.

Like the use of custody, the use of probation varies greatly between jurisdictions

The proportion of guilty youth cases receiving a probation sentence by province and territory spans a large range. For example, in 2006/2007, Nunavut and Prince Edward Island had the highest proportions of cases where the youth was sentenced to probation, at 91% and 85%, respectively. At the low end were New Brunswick (47%), Alberta (47%), Saskatchewan (46%) and British Columbia (44%). All other provinces ranged between 50% to 74% (Table 9).

Methodology

This product is based on case characteristics data collected from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) and the Youth Court Survey (YCS). Data on federal statute charges offences heard and completed in youth court for persons aged 12 to 17 years (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence are collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government ministries responsible for the administration of courts. All youth courts in Canada have reported data to CCJS since the 1991/1992 fiscal year.

As not all youth crime is reported to police and not all youth in conflict with the law proceed to court, this report focuses on court processes and the response to youth crime rather than the prevalence of youth criminal activity.

Primary unit of analysis

The primary unit of analysis is the case. The concept of a case has changed from previous reports to more closely reflect court processing. The new definition combines all charges against the same person having overlapping court dates into a single case. The previous definition combined all charges against the same person disposed of in court on the same day into a case. This tended to undercount the number of charges in a case, overcount the number of cases and underestimate the length of time required to process a case through court because not all charges are necessarily disposed of on the same day.

The impact of this change is noticeable in the compression of case counts as well as conviction rates for some jurisdictions, where certain administrative practices (e.g., use of stays, relays, withdrawals, transfers, etc.) may have resulted in multiple cases against an accused using the former definition. The new case definition is more effective for analyzing caseload, case processing and case complexity statistics, due to its nature of identifying all charges against an accused that are being heard simultaneously before the court. Since all data obtained through the ICCS and YCS have been processed using the new case definition, case counts presented in this report should not be compared with those in previous reports released before October 2007.

Counting procedures for cases with more than one charge

Since a case is characterized by a single charge, in cases with more than one charge it is necessary to determine the charge that will represent the case. In multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court (under the YOA); guilty; other decision (e.g. not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings; charge withdrawn; or transfer to other jurisdiction; and not guilty or charge dismissed. In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to a seriousness scale based on the average length of custodial sentences imposed on convicted charges between

1999/2000 and 2003/2004. If two charges have equal results according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., custody, probation, and fine) is considered. If the representative charge for the case still cannot be determined, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

Factors influencing comparability of youth court statistics among jurisdictions

The reader is advised that the use of the decisions "stay" and "withdrawn" for administrative purposes (e.g., to reduce charges or to correct details on an information) varies by jurisdiction. To terminate and recommence a case for administrative purposes has been found to inflate the total number of cases reported. Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon are most affected by this practice. Although every effort is made to identify and remove these occurrences, the reader is encouraged, where possible, to analyse cases with guilty findings to increase comparability among the jurisdictions.

Differences in data over time and across jurisdictions result from a number of factors that reflect how the YCJA and the YOA were implemented. Pre-court screening procedures may affect the number of youth appearing in court. The Crown Attorney, for example, may decide not to proceed with a charge, or the initial charge may be changed. A youth may also be diverted from the court process into an extrajudicial/alternative measures program (either before or after police lay charges), a police or Crown diversion program.

Glossary of terms

Decisions in youth court

The decision categories in this report are as follows:

Found guilty includes guilty (convicted) of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, of an attempt of an included offence, or a plea of guilt. This category also includes cases where a reprimand or an absolute or conditional discharge has been granted.

Acquittal means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the youth court.

Stay involves a stay of proceedings, where a charge or charges are suspended, and the Crown may recommence court proceedings at a later date, within one year.

Withdrawn or dismissed refer to cases where all charges were withdrawn by the Crown (prior to the entering of a plea by the accused) or dismissed by the court. These decisions all refer to the court stopping or interrupting criminal proceedings against the accused.

Other decisions include cases that were transferred to adult court (under the YOA), transferred to another jurisdiction, the accused was found to be unfit to stand trial, or not criminally responsible due to mental disorder.

Principal sentencing options in youth courts

The main types of sanctions that can be imposed by a youth court are presented under subsection 42(2), paragraphs (a) through (r) of the *YCJA*. Though many of the sanctions have been carried over from the *YOA*, the *YCJA* introduced a number of new or modified sanctions:

Non-custodial sanctions

Reprimand: A new sentencing option under the *YCJA*, a reprimand is the least punitive of all youth sentences, essentially involving a stern lecture from the judge. A reprimand may be most suitable in minor cases where exposure to the police and the court system alone may be deemed sufficient to hold the youth accountable for their offence. Reprimands do not result in a criminal record.

Fine: When a fine is imposed, the young person is ordered to pay a specific dollar amount to the court. The maximum amount that a youth can be fined is \$1,000.

Community service: A community service order requires the youth to perform unpaid work for the community. The maximum length of a community service order is 240 hours with a maximum term of completion of 12 months.

Probation: A young person sentenced to a term of probation remains in the community, but is subject to a number of conditions for the duration of the probation order. Some conditions are compulsory and apply to all youth on probation. These include keeping the peace and appearing before the court when required to do so. The optional conditions vary from case to case, and can include a curfew, reporting to a probation officer, and attending school. The maximum length for a probation order is two years.

Intensive support and supervision order: A new sentencing option, an intensive support and supervision order was introduced in the *YCJA* as an alternative to custody. Similar to probation, an intensive support and supervision order is served in the community under conditions, but provides closer monitoring and support than a probation order to assist the young person in changing his or her behaviour.²⁰ This is an 'opt-in' sanction under the *YCJA*, meaning that provinces and territories may choose not to implement this option, taking into consideration available resources.

Order to attend a non-residential program: As another possible alternative to custody introduced by the *YCJA*, the youth court may order the young person to attend a non-residential program at fixed times and terms. The attendance order is also an 'opt-in' sanction for the provinces and territories.²¹

Other sanctions: In addition, the courts can choose a variety of other sentencing options including compensation for damages, restitution, compensation of an innocent purchaser, personal service, prohibition, seizure or forfeiture, conditional discharge, or absolute discharge. These sentencing options pre-date the introduction of the *YCJA*.

Custodial sentences

Although custody is still a sentencing option, there are several criteria which must be met before a judge can sentence a youth to custody. Section 39 of the *YCJA* prohibits a custodial sentence unless at least one of certain threshold criteria is met. Specifically, a youth justice court shall not commit a young person to custody unless the young person: (i) has committed a violent offence; (ii) has failed to comply with non-custodial sentences; (iii) has committed an indictable offence for which an adult would be liable to imprisonment for more than two years and has a history of convictions under the *YCJA* or *YOA*; or (iv) in exceptional cases, has committed an indictable offence and the aggravating circumstances are such that the imposition of a non-custodial sentence would be inconsistent with the purpose and principles of sentencing of the *YCJA*.²²

Even if one of the above conditions is met, the youth justice court shall not sentence the young person to custody unless the court has considered all reasonable alternatives to custody and determined that no alternatives are available that are in keeping with the purpose and principles of sentencing.²³

Deferred custody and supervision order: Another new sentence under the *YCJA*, a deferred custody and supervision order allows a young person who would otherwise be sentenced to custody to serve the sentence in the community under a number of conditions. Similar to the conditional sentence of imprisonment for adults, violation of conditions may result in the young person being sent to custody.

Custody and supervision: All cases sentenced to custody under the *YCJA* have a supervision component.²⁴ For most offences, the supervision period can be up to half as long as the custodial period, and the periods combined must not exceed the maximum sentence length specified in the *YCJA*. However, if the youth is convicted of manslaughter, attempted murder, or aggravated sexual assault, or is given an intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision order, the length of the custody period and supervision period is up to the discretion of the youth court, as long as the two periods combined is not greater than the maximum sentence length. The maximum lengths of custody and supervision orders for first and second degree murder remain unchanged from the *YOA*, however the *YCJA* specifies guidelines governing the maximum length of the sentence to be served in custody. If convicted of first degree murder, the youth's sentence cannot exceed 10 years, where the committal to custody must not exceed 6 years from the date of committal, followed by a period of conditional supervision²⁵ served in the community. For second degree murder, the total sentence cannot exceed 7 years, with the committal to custody not exceeding 4 years from the date of committal.

Intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision order: The *YCJA* introduced this type of sentence to provide treatment for serious violent young offenders suffering from mental or psychological disorders. The court must also determine that an individualized treatment plan has been developed for the young person.

Sentence review: The length of sentence ordered by the court may be subject to revision under conditions stipulated in the *YCJA*. The court must review all custodial sentences after one year. Optional reviews may be granted for custodial sentences where the amount of time to be served is less than one year, or in special circumstances²⁶ for sentences greater than one year, but before the anniversary date. Following a hearing and review, the judge, considering the needs of the young person and the interests of society, may "confirm the youth sentence, release the youth on conditional supervision, or convert an intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision order to a straightforward custody and supervision order or to an order under the ordinary regime".²⁷

Reviews for non-custodial sentences are not automatic. Rather, anytime after six months following the date of the sentence (or earlier if leave is granted by a youth court judge), the youth, his or her parents, the Crown or the provincial director may apply for a review of the sentence. Following the review hearing, the youth justice court may confirm the sentence, terminate the sentence, vary the sentence, or impose a new non-custodial sentence.

Adult sentencing: The *YCJA* does not provide for transfers of youth to adult court. However, youth courts may impose an adult sentence on a young offender in the exceptional case when the youth sentence for a given offence would not hold the youth accountable for his or her criminal conduct. Under the current provisions of the *YCJA*, an adult sentence can only be considered if the offence committed carries a maximum sentence of more than two years in adult court and the youth was 14 years or older when the offence was committed. The provinces and territories have the option of raising the minimum age to 16 years, so the second criteria may vary. For youth who are charged with murder (first or second degree), manslaughter, attempted murder, and aggravated sexual assault and for youth who have committed a violent offence and have been found guilty on at least two other occasions of serious violent offences, the presumption is that adult sentencing will apply, and the burden is on the convicted youth to show a youth sentence would be more appropriate. For all other cases, the presumption is that youth sentencing will apply.²⁸

Endnotes

1. National data for youth courts are available from 1991/1992.
2. For analytical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a finding of guilt, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple guilty findings is determined based on the type of offence and the sentences imposed. See the Methodology section for more details.
3. Other federal statute cases include drug offences and offences under the *YCJA* such as failure to comply with a sentence or disposition.
4. Postcensal estimates as of July 1st, 2006, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.
5. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, 2006, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.
6. Police-reported data are based on the calendar year (i.e., January 1st to December 31st), whereas court data are based on the fiscal year commencing April 1st to March 31st.
7. Age represents the offender's age in years on the day the offence was alleged to have been committed.

8. The sex of the accused was unknown in 6% of total cases.
9. The classification of a case as a single-charge or multiple-charge is based on the total number of charges in the case, not just those charges resulting in a finding of guilt.
10. The mean is the average value of all the data in the dataset.
11. Cases found guilty includes cases that have been discharged absolutely or on conditions following the finding of guilt.
12. For cases with two or more guilty charges, see "Counting procedures for cases with more than one charge" in the Methodology section for more information on how the representative charge for the case is selected.
13. Youth court data from all provinces and territories are available from 1991/1992 onwards.
14. Subsections 38(1), (2), *YCJA*.
15. For further detail, see "Principal sentencing options in youth courts" under the "Glossary of terms" section at the end of this report.
16. The new *YCJA* sentencing options were not part of the former Youth Court Survey (YCS), rather were implemented in the new Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS). The new sentences have been reported by the provinces and territories from the time that they transitioned from the YCS to the new ICCS. Historical data have been collected where available.
17. As of 2005/2006, *YCJA* sentencing data were available for all provinces and territories with the exception of Saskatchewan.
18. In this report, the sentence length referred to represents both the custodial and supervision portions of the custody and supervision order.
19. The ICCS and the YCS cannot distinguish between consecutive and concurrent sentences and do not include sentencing revisions made under review by the court. In multiple sentence cases, for example, the sentence length may be underestimated because of the assumption of concurrent sentences for all charges and may not reflect actual time ordered.
20. Justice Canada website (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/vj/>), "YCJA Explained".
21. Justice Canada website (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/vj/>), "YCJA Explained".
22. Subsection 39(1), *YCJA*.
23. Subsection 39(2), *YCJA*.
24. Under the *YOA*, custody and supervision was only used in sentences for first and second degree murder.
25. Conditional supervision orders represent the community based portion of a custody and supervision order for convicted presumptive offences. Under a conditional supervision order the young offender must keep the peace, appear in youth court as required, report to the provincial director immediately upon release from custody, inform the provincial director if questioned or charged by police, report to police as required, report any address changes, comply with the instructions of the provincial director, and is prohibited from possessing any weapons.
26. S. 94 of the *YCJA* sets out the circumstances under which an optional review may be granted.
27. Justice Canada website (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/vj/>), "YCJA Explained".
28. Despite these provisions for 'presumption', the Quebec Court of Appeal has held that the presumption provisions of the *YCJA* are invalid. Therefore, rather than relying on presumption, many jurisdictions are giving notice when seeking an adult sentence for a youth accused of committing and offence. Amendments to this effect are pending.

References

Tuck-Jackson, A. LL.B, Weinper, Justice F., Anand, S., LL.B., LL.M., Ph.D, Tustin, L., M.Ed., editors. 2004. *Annotated Youth Criminal Justice Act Service*. LexisNexis Canada Inc.

Silver, W. 2007. "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2006" *Juristat*. Vol. 27, no. 5. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE. Ottawa.

Youth Criminal Justice Act (Statute of Canada).

Table 1

Cases heard in youth courts, Canada, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

Offence category	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	Percentage change from 2002/2003 to 2006/2007
Total cases						
Number	76,153	64,002	57,588	56,271	56,463	...
Percentage change in the number of cases ¹	...	-16.0	-10.0	-2.3	0.3	-25.9
Crimes against the person						
Number	18,446	16,716	15,127	15,166	15,126	...
Percentage change in the number of cases ¹	...	-9.4	-9.5	0.3	-0.3	-18.0
Crimes against property						
Number	31,359	25,532	22,722	21,522	21,279	...
Percentage change in the number of cases ¹	...	-18.6	-11.0	-5.3	-1.1	-32.1
Administration of justice						
Number	5,924	5,186	4,904	4,793	4,945	...
Percentage change in the number of cases ¹	...	-12.5	-5.4	-2.3	3.2	-16.5
Other Criminal Code offences						
Number	4,686	4,457	4,200	4,348	4,471	...
Percentage change in the number of cases ¹	...	-4.9	-5.8	3.5	2.8	-4.6
Criminal Code traffic						
Number	1,329	1,216	1,136	1,049	1,086	...
Percentage change in the number of cases ¹	...	-8.5	-6.6	-7.7	3.5	-18.3
Other federal statute						
Number	14,409	10,895	9,499	9,393	9,556	...
Percentage change in the number of cases ¹	...	-24.4	-12.8	-1.1	1.7	-33.7

... not applicable

1. Refers to the previous year.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 2

Youth court charges and cases, Canada, 2006/2007

Offence group	Charges		Cases	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total offences	179,873	100.0	56,463	100.0
Crimes against the person	35,290	19.6	15,126	26.8
Homicide	72	0.0	40	0.1
Attempted murder	101	0.1	23	0.0
Robbery	4,535	2.5	2,228	3.9
Sexual assault	1,744	1.0	723	1.3
Other sexual offences	1,207	0.7	442	0.8
Major assault	8,059	4.5	3,435	6.1
Common assault	12,141	6.7	5,682	10.1
Uttering threats	6,066	3.4	2,137	3.8
Criminal harassment	407	0.2	135	0.2
Other crimes against persons	958	0.5	281	0.5
Crimes against property	56,906	31.6	21,279	37.7
Theft	19,162	10.7	7,687	13.6
Break and enter	10,210	5.7	5,066	9.0
Fraud	2,686	1.5	817	1.4
Mischief	13,128	7.3	3,878	6.9
Possess stolen property	10,895	6.1	3,505	6.2
Other property crimes	825	0.5	326	0.6
Administration of justice	30,358	16.9	4,945	8.8
Fail to appear	2,542	1.4	349	0.6
Breach of probation	910	0.5	182	0.3
Unlawfully at large	911	0.5	549	1.0
Fail to comply with order	24,994	13.9	3,483	6.2
Other administration of justice offences	1,001	0.6	382	0.7
Other Criminal Code	15,616	8.7	4,471	7.9
Weapons	6,702	3.7	1,996	3.5
Prostitution	42	0.0	19	0.0
Disturbing the peace	805	0.4	244	0.4
Residual Criminal Code	8,067	4.5	2,212	3.9
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	138,170	76.8	45,821	81.2
Criminal Code traffic	3,043	1.7	1,086	1.9
Impaired driving	1,518	0.8	557	1.0
Other Criminal Code traffic	1,525	0.8	529	0.9
Total Criminal Code	141,213	78.5	46,907	83.1
Other federal statute total	38,660	21.5	9,556	16.9
Drug possession	5,487	3.1	2,430	4.3
Drug trafficking	2,509	1.4	1,305	2.3
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	27,053	15.0	4,795	8.5
Residual federal statutes	3,611	2.0	1,026	1.8

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 3

Cases before youth courts, Canada, provinces and territories, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	Percentage change 2005/2006 to 2006/2007	Percentage change 2002/2003 to 2006/2007
	number of cases					percentage	
Canada	76,153	64,002	57,588	56,271	56,463	0.3	-25.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,403	1,110	1,030	753	738	-2.0	-47.4
Prince Edward Island	263	179	127	178	209	17.4	-20.5
Nova Scotia	1,942	1,651	1,540	1,672	1,798	7.5	-7.4
New Brunswick	1,551	1,182	1,160	1,225	1,174	-4.2	-24.3
Quebec	7,689	7,256	7,027	6,930	6,653	-4.0	-13.5
Ontario	35,710	28,306	25,943	25,084	25,102	0.1	-29.7
Manitoba	3,506	3,306	2,834	2,995	3,076	2.7	-12.3
Saskatchewan	6,377	5,342	4,961	4,855	5,165	6.4	-19.0
Alberta	10,439	10,121	8,094	7,919	8,016	1.2	-23.2
British Columbia	6,473	4,995	4,269	4,111	4,065	-1.1	-37.2
Yukon	164	97	74	82	90	9.8	-45.1
Northwest Territories	385	234	312	242	186	-23.1	-51.7
Nunavut ¹	251	223	217	225	191	-15.1	-23.9

1. The number of cases may be underreported for Nunavut, as there may be charge and case information from remote areas that is entered into their caseload management system several months after sending their data submission for the Youth Court Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 4

Cases heard in youth court by offence category and age of accused, Canada, 2006/2007

Offence category	Total cases	Age of accused													
		12		13		14		15		16		17		Other ¹	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total offences	56,463	1,356	2.4	3,442	6.1	7,248	12.8	11,722	20.8	14,851	26.3	16,677	29.5	1,167	2.1
Crimes against the person	15,126	594	3.9	1,272	8.4	2,224	14.7	3,196	21.1	3,723	24.6	3,916	25.9	201	1.3
Crimes against property	21,279	576	2.7	1,451	6.8	3,121	14.7	4,783	22.5	5,541	26.0	5,608	26.4	199	0.9
Administration of justice	4,945	51	1.0	218	4.4	559	11.3	997	20.2	1,377	27.8	1,557	31.5	186	3.8
Other Criminal Code offences	4,471	81	1.8	202	4.5	486	10.9	853	19.1	1,170	26.2	1,401	31.3	278	6.2
Criminal Code traffic	1,086	5	0.5	16	1.5	41	3.8	94	8.7	280	25.8	641	59.0	9	0.8
Other federal statute offences	9,556	49	0.5	283	3.0	817	8.5	1,799	18.8	2,760	28.9	3,554	37.2	294	3.1

1. Other age group includes cases where the accused was older than 17 at the time of the offence (i.e., YCJA sections 136 to 139 and YOA sections 26, 50) or the age was unknown.

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Age of accused is at the time of offence.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 5

Elapsed time to complete a case in youth court, by type of offence, Canada, 2006/2007

Offence group	Elapsed time (in days) from first to last court appearance												
	Total cases	Mean ¹	Median ¹	One day		Greater than one day to 4 months		Greater than 4 months to 8 months		Greater than 8 months to 12 months		Greater than 12 months	
	number			percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	
Total offences	56,463	156	110	5,090	9.0	27,648	49.0	14,793	26.2	5,596	9.9	3,336	5.9
Crimes against the person	15,126	189	148	654	4.3	6,019	39.8	4,866	32.2	2,244	14.8	1,343	8.9
Homicide	40	369	344	0	0.0	5	12.5	10	25.0	16	40.0	9	22.5
Attempted murder	23	195	186	5	21.7	3	13.0	9	39.1	4	17.4	2	8.7
Robbery	2,228	217	170	34	1.5	838	37.6	752	33.8	359	16.1	245	11.0
Sexual assault	723	284	225	9	1.2	153	21.2	235	32.5	172	23.8	154	21.3
Other sexual offences	442	266	228	7	1.6	106	24.0	136	30.8	100	22.6	93	21.0
Major assault	3,435	199	159	99	2.9	1,303	37.9	1,139	33.2	534	15.5	360	10.5
Common assault	5,682	167	127	369	6.5	2,477	43.6	1,753	30.9	732	12.9	351	6.2
Uttering threats	2,137	151	127	110	5.1	974	45.6	707	33.1	257	12.0	89	4.2
Criminal harassment	135	169	148	12	8.9	53	39.3	40	29.6	23	17.0	7	5.2
Other crimes against persons	281	200	175	9	3.2	107	38.1	85	30.2	47	16.7	33	11.7
Crimes against property	21,279	156	108	1,949	9.2	10,695	50.3	5,651	26.6	1,850	8.7	1,134	5.3
Theft	7,687	146	97	891	11.6	4,023	52.3	1,916	24.9	507	6.6	350	4.6
Break and enter	5,066	172	121	339	6.7	2,476	48.9	1,360	26.8	536	10.6	355	7.0
Fraud	817	204	120	70	8.6	392	48.0	207	25.3	88	10.8	60	7.3
Mischief	3,878	140	109	369	9.5	1,883	48.6	1,101	28.4	360	9.3	165	4.3
Possess stolen property	3,505	160	112	274	7.8	1,789	51.0	950	27.1	309	8.8	183	5.2
Other property crimes	326	189	158	6	1.8	132	40.5	117	35.9	50	15.3	21	6.4
Administration of justice	4,945	128	69	624	12.6	2,885	58.3	909	18.4	332	6.7	195	3.9
Fail to appear	349	218	79	60	17.2	176	50.4	62	17.8	29	8.3	22	6.3
Breach of probation	182	104	60	32	17.6	95	52.2	36	19.8	10	5.5	9	4.9
Unlawfully at large	549	69	21	96	17.5	403	73.4	34	6.2	8	1.5	8	1.5
Fail to comply with order	3,483	130	78	404	11.6	1,989	57.1	692	19.9	260	7.5	138	4.0
Other administration of justice offences	382	128	92	32	8.4	222	58.1	85	22.3	25	6.5	18	4.7
Other Criminal Code	4,471	169	127	265	5.9	2,072	46.3	1,314	29.4	518	11.6	302	6.8
Weapons	1,996	175	144	65	3.3	870	43.6	654	32.8	272	13.6	135	6.8
Prostitution	19	414	72	2	10.5	10	52.6	4	21.1	1	5.3	2	10.5
Disturbing the peace	244	152	106	31	12.7	107	43.9	74	30.3	17	7.0	15	6.1
Residual Criminal Code	2,212	162	118	167	7.5	1,085	49.1	582	26.3	228	10.3	150	6.8
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	45,821	165	120	3,492	7.6	21,671	47.3	12,740	27.8	4,944	10.8	2,974	6.5
Criminal Code traffic	1,086	149	91	171	15.7	510	47.0	236	21.7	90	8.3	79	7.3
Impaired driving	557	128	50	145	26.0	244	43.8	94	16.9	41	7.4	33	5.9
Other Criminal Code traffic	529	171	122	26	4.9	266	50.3	142	26.8	49	9.3	46	8.7
Total Criminal Code	46,907	165	120	3,663	7.8	22,181	47.3	12,976	27.7	5,034	10.7	3,053	6.5
Other federal statute total	9,556	111	64	1,427	14.9	5,467	57.2	1,817	19.0	562	5.9	283	3.0
Drug possession	2,430	115	78	376	15.5	1,271	52.3	562	23.1	157	6.5	64	2.6
Drug trafficking	1,305	176	141	36	2.8	586	44.9	429	32.9	179	13.7	75	5.7
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	4,795	91	42	824	17.2	3,012	62.8	685	14.3	169	3.5	105	2.2
Residual federal statutes	1,026	115	52	191	18.6	598	58.3	141	13.7	57	5.6	39	3.8

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. The mean is the average value of the number of days for all cases from the first to last court appearance. The median represents the midpoint in the sorted dataset, where exactly half the dataset are above and half below the midpoint.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 6

Cases before youth courts by type of decision, Canada, provinces and territories, 2006/2007

	Total cases	Decision									
		Found guilty ¹		Acquittal		Stayed		Withdrawn/ dismissed		Other ²	
	number	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Canada	56,463	34,065	60	727	1.3	9,098	16.1	12,196	21.6	377	0.7
Newfoundland and Labrador ³	738	563	76	2	0.3	61	8.3	107	14.5	5	0.7
Prince Edward Island	209	153	73	0	0.0	55	26.3	1	0.5	0	0.0
Nova Scotia	1,798	1,118	62	39	2.2	48	2.7	585	32.5	8	0.4
New Brunswick	1,174	1,035	88	6	0.5	0	0.0	127	10.8	6	0.5
Quebec ⁴	6,653	4,761	72	366	5.5	1,083	16.3	429	6.4	14	0.2
Ontario	25,102	13,833	55	112	0.4	3,723	14.8	7,268	29.0	166	0.7
Manitoba	3,076	2,051	67	9	0.3	1,013	32.9	3	0.1	0	0.0
Saskatchewan	5,165	2,945	57	30	0.6	535	10.4	1,637	31.7	18	0.3
Alberta	8,016	4,496	56	58	0.7	1,434	17.9	1,910	23.8	118	1.5
British Columbia	4,065	2,811	69	102	2.5	1,077	26.5	45	1.1	30	0.7
Yukon	90	41	46	1	1.1	19	21.1	27	30.0	2	2.2
Northwest Territories	186	131	70	0	0.0	19	10.2	34	18.3	2	1.1
Nunavut ⁵	191	127	66	2	1.0	31	16.2	23	12.0	8	4.2

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges.

2. Other decisions include transferred to another province/territory, unfit to stand trial and not guilty by reason of insanity.

3. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably.

4. The number of acquittals may be over-reported due to administrative practices.

5. Total case counts may be underreported for Nunavut, as there may be charge and case information from remote areas that is entered into their caseload management system several months after sending their data submission for the Youth Court Survey.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 7

Percentage of cases resulting in guilt in youth courts, by type of offence, Canada, 2006/2007

Offence group	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
	percentage of cases resulting in guilt								
Total offences	70	69	67	66	65	61	62	62	60
Crimes against the person	67	66	66	65	66	60	61	61	61
Homicide	45	52	51	29	48	51	59	53	53
Attempted murder	42	20	65	47	40	34	45	57	26
Robbery	72	70	68	70	69	62	63	63	61
Sexual assault	65	63	63	66	63	56	60	64	63
Other sexual offences	55	57	60	58	55	63	64	63	62
Major assault	70	70	68	68	69	62	64	62	64
Common assault	68	67	67	66	66	61	61	60	60
Uttering threats	62	59	62	61	61	57	56	57	57
Criminal harassment	55	60	57	55	60	54	53	54	41
Other crimes against persons	54	60	55	55	53	50	50	58	57
Crimes against property	69	69	66	64	63	60	61	58	55
Theft	67	67	64	62	60	57	60	55	53
Break and enter	80	78	78	75	76	70	71	69	66
Fraud	71	74	70	70	68	65	59	60	54
Mischief	64	65	64	62	59	54	54	55	52
Possess stolen property	60	61	58	55	54	54	53	49	49
Other property crimes	63	61	62	60	60	49	56	56	55
Administration of justice	69	67	67	66	66	64	65	65	64
Fail to appear	47	44	46	45	43	42	42	49	48
Breach of probation	62	57	60	54	51	60	55	62	59
Unlawfully at large	94	92	92	91	92	89	91	89	91
Fail to comply with order	62	61	61	61	61	58	61	62	61
Other administration of justice offences	71	69	70	71	69	71	74	67	68
Other Criminal Code	67	66	66	65	64	58	57	59	58
Weapons	64	64	61	60	60	52	52	55	54
Prostitution	78	59	49	48	75	41	36	35	32
Disturbing the peace	64	61	60	64	60	52	47	53	45
Residual Criminal Code	70	69	70	69	67	63	64	63	63
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	69	68	66	65	64	60	61	60	58
Criminal Code traffic	81	83	79	80	78	78	80	80	82
Impaired driving	84	86	83	83	82	80	78	83	83
Other Criminal Code traffic	79	78	76	79	75	77	82	78	80
Total Criminal Code	69	68	67	65	64	61	61	60	59
Other federal statute total	75	73	71	68	66	65	67	69	68
Drug possession	62	58	54	51	44	33	44	44	43
Drug trafficking	75	75	72	69	66	64	63	62	56
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	78	78	77	76	76	75	78	80	82
Residual federal statutes	74	63	67	64	60	64	63	77	77

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 8

Guilty youth court cases by type of sentence and type of offence, Canada, 2006/2007

Offence group	Total guilty cases	Type of sentence									
		Custody and supervision ¹		Conditional sentence		Deferred custody and supervision ²		Intensive support and supervision ²		Attend a non- residential program ²	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total offences	34,065	5,640	16.6	27	0.1	1,080	3.2	347	1.0	213	0.6
Crimes against the person	9,164	1,591	17.4	13	0.1	422	4.6	144	1.6	43	0.5
Homicide	21	15	71.4	0	0.0	1	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Attempted murder	6	5	83.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Robbery	1,355	500	36.9	1	0.1	113	8.3	38	2.8	6	0.4
Sexual assault	459	55	12.0	1	0.2	35	7.6	14	3.1	0	0.0
Other sexual offences	272	30	11.0	0	0.0	17	6.3	9	3.3	0	0.0
Major assault	2,213	429	19.4	3	0.1	117	5.3	49	2.2	18	0.8
Common assault	3,404	341	10.0	7	0.2	89	2.6	21	0.6	12	0.4
Uttering threats	1,218	164	13.5	0	0.0	34	2.8	11	0.9	6	0.5
Criminal harassment	55	7	12.7	0	0.0	4	7.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other crimes against persons	161	45	28.0	1	0.6	12	7.5	2	1.2	1	0.6
Crimes against property	11,793	1,607	13.6	2	0.0	292	2.5	90	0.8	65	0.6
Theft	4,078	423	10.4	1	0.0	73	1.8	31	0.8	40	1.0
Break and enter	3,364	635	18.9	0	0.0	112	3.3	32	1.0	10	0.3
Fraud	441	58	13.2	0	0.0	12	2.7	3	0.7	2	0.5
Mischief	2,029	159	7.8	1	0.0	40	2.0	5	0.2	9	0.4
Possess stolen property	1,701	306	18.0	0	0.0	53	3.1	13	0.8	4	0.2
Other property crimes	180	26	14.4	0	0.0	2	1.1	6	3.3	0	0.0
Administration of justice	3,164	849	26.8	2	0.1	61	1.9	15	0.5	24	0.8
Fail to appear	169	31	18.3	0	0.0	3	1.8	0	0.0	1	0.6
Breach of probation	108	22	20.4	0	0.0	2	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unlawfully at large	501	338	67.5	0	0.0	7	1.4	1	0.2	3	0.6
Fail to comply with order	2,128	404	19.0	2	0.1	37	1.7	11	0.5	18	0.8
Other administration of justice offences	258	54	20.9	0	0.0	12	4.7	3	1.2	2	0.8
Other Criminal Code	2,574	401	15.6	4	0.2	96	3.7	31	1.2	18	0.7
Weapons	1,068	189	17.7	1	0.1	41	3.8	18	1.7	10	0.9
Prostitution	6	2	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Disturbing the peace	111	0	0.0	1	0.9	2	1.8	1	0.9	0	0.0
Residual Criminal Code	1,389	210	15.1	2	0.1	53	3.8	12	0.9	8	0.6
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	26,695	4,448	16.7	21	0.1	871	3.3	280	1.0	150	0.6
Criminal Code traffic	886	87	9.8	0	0.0	19	2.1	9	1.0	2	0.2
Impaired driving	464	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Criminal Code traffic	422	86	20.4	0	0.0	18	4.3	9	2.1	2	0.5
Total Criminal Code	27,581	4,535	16.4	21	0.1	890	3.2	289	1.0	152	0.6
Other federal statute total	6,484	1,105	17.0	6	0.1	190	2.9	58	0.9	61	0.9
Drug possession	1,050	17	1.6	4	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.1	9	0.9
Drug trafficking	730	102	14.0	2	0.3	31	4.2	4	0.5	3	0.4
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act</i>	3,912	859	22.0	0	0.0	159	4.1	53	1.4	49	1.3
Other federal statutes	792	127	16.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. S. 85(1) of the YCJA specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody, however the levels are not defined (as in the YOA, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.

2. Data on new YCJA sentences are not yet available for Saskatchewan. They are included in the "Other" category.

Table 8

Guilty youth court cases by type of sentence and type of offence, Canada, 2006/2007 (continued)

Offence group	Type of sentence									
	Probation		Fine		Community service		Other ³		Reprimand ²	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total offences	19,953	58.6	1,860	5.5	8,120	23.8	11,671	34.3	724	2.1
Crimes against the person	6,249	68.2	102	1.1	1,969	21.5	3,642	39.7	102	1.1
Homicide	7	33.3	0	0.0	1	4.8	8	38.1	0	0.0
Attempted murder	5	83.3	0	0.0	1	16.7	3	50.0	0	0.0
Robbery	990	73.1	3	0.2	323	23.8	738	54.5	6	0.4
Sexual assault	360	78.4	1	0.2	59	12.9	145	31.6	1	0.2
Other sexual offences	213	78.3	0	0.0	32	11.8	63	23.2	0	0.0
Major assault	1,543	69.7	30	1.4	514	23.2	922	41.7	10	0.5
Common assault	2,136	62.7	50	1.5	741	21.8	1,337	39.3	59	1.7
Uttering threats	832	68.3	12	1.0	232	19.0	331	27.2	26	2.1
Criminal harassment	38	69.1	4	7.3	17	30.9	27	49.1	0	0.0
Other crimes against persons	125	77.6	2	1.2	49	30.4	68	42.2	0	0.0
Crimes against property	7,454	63.2	370	3.1	3,243	27.5	3,859	32.7	198	1.7
Theft	2,371	58.1	191	4.7	1,145	28.1	1,423	34.9	103	2.5
Break and enter	2,461	73.2	34	1.0	975	29.0	903	26.8	12	0.4
Fraud	270	61.2	16	3.6	98	22.2	157	35.6	9	2.0
Mischief	1,169	57.6	59	2.9	553	27.3	819	40.4	42	2.1
Possess stolen property	1,053	61.9	63	3.7	422	24.8	497	29.2	30	1.8
Other property crimes	130	72.2	7	3.9	50	27.8	60	33.3	2	1.1
Administration of justice	1,371	43.3	226	7.1	505	16.0	683	21.6	193	6.1
Fail to appear	76	45.0	16	9.5	19	11.2	41	24.3	13	7.7
Breach of probation	54	50.0	12	11.1	23	21.3	17	15.7	8	7.4
Unlawfully at large	116	23.2	2	0.4	59	11.8	26	5.2	10	2.0
Fail to comply with order	972	45.7	188	8.8	355	16.7	546	25.7	157	7.4
Other administration of justice offences	153	59.3	8	3.1	49	19.0	53	20.5	5	1.9
Other Criminal Code	1,578	61.3	94	3.7	537	20.9	945	36.7	57	2.2
Weapons	686	64.2	26	2.4	208	19.5	526	49.3	17	1.6
Prostitution	2	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	50.0
Disturbing the peace	56	50.5	11	9.9	26	23.4	46	41.4	7	6.3
Residual Criminal Code	834	60.0	57	4.1	303	21.8	373	26.9	30	2.2
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	16,652	62.4	792	3.0	6,254	23.4	9,129	34.2	550	2.1
Criminal Code traffic	378	42.7	344	38.8	146	16.5	612	69.1	2	0.2
Impaired driving	118	25.4	304	65.5	65	14.0	413	89.0	1	0.2
Other Criminal Code traffic	260	61.6	40	9.5	81	19.2	199	47.2	1	0.2
Total Criminal Code	17,030	61.7	1,136	4.1	6,400	23.2	9,741	35.3	552	2.0
Other federal statute total	2,923	45.1	724	11.2	1,720	26.5	1,930	29.8	172	2.7
Drug possession	477	45.4	161	15.3	299	28.5	628	59.8	39	3.7
Drug trafficking	543	74.4	32	4.4	241	33.0	436	59.7	3	0.4
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	1,593	40.7	444	11.3	913	23.3	822	21.0	130	3.3
Other federal statutes	310	39.1	87	11.0	267	33.7	44	5.6	0	0.0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. S. 85(1) of the YCJA specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody, however the levels are not defined (as in the YOA, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.

2. Data on new YCJA sentences are not yet available for Saskatchewan. They are included in the "Other" category.

3. Other sentences include absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs, and conditional discharge. For Saskatchewan, this category also includes deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision, attend a non-residential program and reprimand.

Note: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 9

Sentences in youth courts, Canada, provinces and territories, 2006/2007

	Total guilty cases	Type of sentence									
		Custody and supervision ¹		Conditional sentence		Deferred custody and supervision ²		Intensive support and supervision ²		Attend a non- residential program ²	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Canada	34,065	5,640	16.6	27	0.1	1,080	3.2	347	1.0	213	0.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	563	104	18.5	0	0.0	13	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Prince Edward Island	153	26	17.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Nova Scotia	1,118	153	13.7	0	0.0	87	7.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
New Brunswick	1,035	170	16.4	0	0.0	67	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Quebec	4,761	498	10.5	0	0.0	93	2.0	16	0.3	31	0.7
Ontario	13,833	2,880	20.8	19	0.1	469	3.4	16	0.1	40	0.3
Manitoba	2,051	164	8.0	3	0.1	29	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Saskatchewan ²	2,945	498	16.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Alberta	4,496	557	12.4	0	0.0	158	3.5	11	0.2	142	3.2
British Columbia	2,811	525	18.7	4	0.1	160	5.7	301	10.7	0	0.0
Yukon	41	14	34.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	7.3	0	0.0
Northwest Territories ⁴	131	29	22.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Nunavut	127	22	17.3	1	0.8	4	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Type of sentence											
	Probation		Fine		Community service		Other ³		Reprimand ²		
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	
Canada	19,953	58.6	1,860	5.5	8,120	23.8	11,671	34.3	724	2.1	
Newfoundland and Labrador	344	61.1	7	1.2	182	32.3	128	22.7	35	6.2	
Prince Edward Island	130	85.0	13	8.5	0	0.0	28	18.3	0	0.0	
Nova Scotia	827	74.0	47	4.2	265	23.7	226	20.2	16	1.4	
New Brunswick	483	46.7	47	4.5	51	4.9	203	19.6	7	0.7	
Quebec	3,177	66.7	178	3.7	2,261	47.5	1,692	35.5	29	0.6	
Ontario	9,053	65.4	406	2.9	3,101	22.4	6,401	46.3	463	3.3	
Manitoba	1,035	50.5	108	5.3	279	13.6	272	13.3	32	1.6	
Saskatchewan ²	1,343	45.6	166	5.6	707	24.0	154	5.2	0	0.0	
Alberta	2,127	47.3	707	15.7	729	16.2	1,568	34.9	96	2.1	
British Columbia	1,227	43.6	169	6.0	542	19.3	922	32.8	46	1.6	
Yukon	22	53.7	3	7.3	3	7.3	11	26.8	0	0.0	
Northwest Territories ⁴	69	52.7	6	4.6	0	0.0	39	29.8	0	0.0	
Nunavut	116	91.3	3	2.4	0	0.0	27	21.3	0	0.0	

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. S. 85(1) of the *YCJA* specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody, however the levels are not defined (as in the *YOA*, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.

2. Data on new *YCJA* sentences are not yet available for Saskatchewan. They are included in the "Other" category.

3. Other sentences include absolute discharge, restitution, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, compensation, pay purchaser, essays, apologies, counseling programs, and conditional discharge. For Saskatchewan, this category also includes deferred custody and supervision, intensive support and supervision, attend a non-residential program and reprimand.

4. The number of custody orders have been under-reported and the number of probation orders have been over-reported by unknown amounts due to clerical procedures in the Northwest Territories. The majority of custody orders were captured as probation.

Note: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 10

Guilty youth cases sentenced to custody, Canada, provinces and territories, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

	2002/2003			2003/2004			2004/2005		
	Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to custody		Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to custody		Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to custody	
	number	number	percent	number	number	percent	number	number	percent
Canada	49,169	13,246	26.9	39,323	8,683	22.1	35,865	7,578	21.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,049	403	38.4	855	184	21.5	759	174	22.9
Prince Edward Island	185	73	39.5	117	23	19.7	94	15	16.0
Nova Scotia	1,341	438	32.7	1,016	150	14.8	888	117	13.2
New Brunswick	1,374	355	25.8	1,027	235	22.9	1,009	210	20.8
Quebec	5,824	1,236	21.2	5,330	845	15.9	5,082	777	15.3
Ontario	21,344	6,013	28.2	16,407	4,589	28.0	15,314	4,059	26.5
Manitoba	2,413	628	26.0	2,089	334	16.0	1,900	299	15.7
Saskatchewan	3,801	1,180	31.0	2,788	732	26.3	2,746	586	21.3
Alberta	6,803	1,313	19.3	5,869	752	12.8	4,587	600	13.1
British Columbia	4,532	1,429	31.5	3,483	767	22.0	3,070	660	21.5
Yukon	64	31	48.4	44	13	29.5	32	8	25.0
Northwest Territories ¹	273	107	39.2	157	30	19.1	246	40	16.3
Nunavut	166	40	24.1	141	29	20.6	138	33	23.9
	2005/2006			2006/2007			Percentage change in number of cases receiving custody 2002/2003 to 2006/2007		Percentage point change in proportion of guilty cases receiving custody 2002/2003 to 2006/2007
	Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to custody		Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to custody				
	number	number	percent	number	number	percent			percentage
Canada	34,628	6,355	18.4	34,065	5,640	16.6	-57.4		-10.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	608	121	19.9	563	104	18.5	-74.2		-19.9
Prince Edward Island	129	22	17.1	153	26	17.0	-64.4		-22.5
Nova Scotia	985	112	11.4	1,118	153	13.7	-65.1		-19.0
New Brunswick	1,065	174	16.3	1,035	170	16.4	-52.1		-9.4
Quebec	4,936	559	11.3	4,761	498	10.5	-59.7		-10.8
Ontario	14,418	3,446	23.9	13,833	2,880	20.8	-52.1		-7.4
Manitoba	1,983	173	8.7	2,051	164	8.0	-73.9		-18.0
Saskatchewan	2,718	489	18.0	2,945	498	16.9	-57.8		-14.1
Alberta	4,502	554	12.3	4,496	557	12.4	-57.6		-6.9
British Columbia	2,923	622	21.3	2,811	525	18.7	-63.3		-12.9
Yukon	35	15	42.9	41	14	34.1	-54.8		-14.3
Northwest Territories ¹	174	34	19.5	131	29	22.1	-72.9		-17.1
Nunavut	152	34	22.4	127	22	17.3	-45.0		-6.8

1. From 2004/2005 to 2006/2007, for the Northwest Territories, the number of custody orders have been under-reported and the number of probation orders have been over-reported by unknown amounts due to clerical procedures. The majority of custody orders were captured as probation.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 11

Guilty youth cases sentenced to probation, Canada, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

	2002/2003			2003/2004			2004/2005		
	Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to probation		Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to probation		Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to probation	
	number	number	percent	number	number	percent	number	number	percent
Canada	49,169	34,440	70.0	39,323	24,847	63.2	35,865	22,380	62.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,049	742	70.7	855	589	68.9	759	501	66.0
Prince Edward Island	185	134	72.4	117	87	74.4	94	73	77.7
Nova Scotia	1,341	988	73.7	1,016	735	72.3	888	686	77.3
New Brunswick	1,374	869	63.2	1,027	519	50.5	1,009	521	51.6
Quebec	5,824	4,310	74.0	5,330	3,692	69.3	5,082	3,603	70.9
Ontario	21,344	17,068	80.0	16,407	12,233	74.6	15,314	11,016	71.9
Manitoba	2,413	1,510	62.6	2,089	1,151	55.1	1,900	1,111	58.5
Saskatchewan	3,801	2,188	57.6	2,788	1,351	48.5	2,746	1,245	45.3
Alberta	6,803	3,103	45.6	5,869	2,342	39.9	4,587	1,908	41.6
British Columbia	4,532	3,177	70.1	3,483	1,901	54.6	3,070	1,529	49.8
Yukon	64	37	57.8	44	22	50.0	32	18	56.3
Northwest Territories ¹	273	170	62.3	157	108	68.8	246	53	21.5
Nunavut	166	144	86.7	141	117	83.0	138	116	84.1
	2005/2006			2006/2007			Percentage change in number of cases receiving probation 2002/2003 to 2006/2007	Percentage point change in proportion of guilty cases receiving probation 2002/2003 to 2006/2007	
	Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to probation		Total guilty cases	Guilty cases sentenced to probation				
	number	number	percent	number	number	percent		percentage	
Canada	34,628	20,822	60.1	34,065	19,953	58.6	-42.1	-11.5	
Newfoundland and Labrador	608	420	69.1	563	344	61.1	-53.6	-9.6	
Prince Edward Island	129	112	86.8	153	130	85.0	-3.0	12.5	
Nova Scotia	985	729	74.0	1,118	827	74.0	-16.3	0.3	
New Brunswick	1,065	524	49.2	1,035	483	46.7	-44.4	-16.6	
Quebec	4,936	3,123	63.3	4,761	3,177	66.7	-26.3	-7.3	
Ontario	14,418	10,045	69.7	13,833	9,053	65.4	-47.0	-14.5	
Manitoba	1,983	1,006	50.7	2,051	1,035	50.5	-31.5	-12.1	
Saskatchewan	2,718	1,287	47.4	2,945	1,343	45.6	-38.6	-12.0	
Alberta	4,502	2,030	45.1	4,496	2,127	47.3	-31.5	1.7	
British Columbia	2,923	1,358	46.5	2,811	1,227	43.6	-61.4	-26.5	
Yukon	35	16	45.7	41	22	53.7	-40.5	-4.2	
Northwest Territories ¹	174	41	23.6	131	69	52.7	-59.4	-9.6	
Nunavut	152	131	86.2	127	116	91.3	-19.4	4.6	

1. From 2004/2005 to 2006/2007, for the Northwest Territories, the number of custody orders have been under-reported and the number of probation orders have been over-reported by unknown amounts due to clerical procedures. The majority of custody orders were captured as probation.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Table 12

Mean and median length of custody and probation sentences,¹ Canada, 2006/2007

Offence group	Custody ^{2,3}		Probation	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
	days			
Total offences	72	36	365	365
Crimes against the person	117	60	393	365
Homicide	1,084	730	582	540
Attempted murder	243	227	435	365
Robbery	148	120	429	365
Sexual assault	165	120	515	540
Other sexual offences	142	120	509	540
Major assault	110	60	395	365
Common assault	38	24	352	365
Uttering threats	56	39	367	365
Criminal harassment	35	20	367	365
Other crimes against persons	238	120	393	365
Crimes against property	68	43	362	365
Theft	51	30	338	365
Break and enter	94	67	391	365
Fraud	45	24	385	365
Mischief	40	23	333	365
Possess stolen property	49	30	365	365
Other property crimes	149	90	424	365
Administration of justice	33	20	368	365
Fail to appear	22	15	406	365
Breach of probation	40	20	399	365
Unlawfully at large	41	30	386	365
Fail to comply with order	24	10	359	365
Other administration of justice offences	55	51	386	365
Other Criminal Code	61	36	364	365
Weapons	73	41	398	365
Prostitution	140	140	180	180
Disturbing the peace	0	0	307	270
Residual Criminal Code	50	30	338	365
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	79	40	374	365
Criminal Code traffic	101	80	388	365
Impaired driving	1	1	333	365
Other Criminal Code traffic	102	80	414	365
Total Criminal Code	79	40	374	365
Other federal statute total	41	20	310	360
Drug possession	11	10	273	270
Drug trafficking	107	94	372	365
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	31	20	309	360
Other federal statutes	57	40	269	270

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. The mean is the average value of all sentences for each of custody and probation. The median represents the midpoint in the sorted dataset, where exactly half the dataset are above and half below the midpoint.

2. S. 85(1) of the YCJA specifies that the provinces and territories must provide for at least two levels of custody, however the levels are not defined (as in the YOA, which provided for open and secure levels of custody). The majority of provinces and territories no longer maintain data in their operational systems pertaining to the level of custody to which a youth was sentenced.

3. Since custody orders under the YCJA include a mandatory period of post-custody supervision, the figures for custody include the post-custody supervision portion of the order effective April 1, 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 2006/2007

by Michael Marth

Highlights

- In 2006/2007, adult criminal courts in Canada disposed of over 372,000 cases, involving more than one million charges. The number of cases disposed was virtually unchanged from the previous year.
- The average elapsed time from first to last court appearance was just under 8 months (237 days) in 2006/2007, almost a full month longer than in the previous year (211 days).
- Offences with the longest average time to resolve included homicide (451 days), fraud (377 days), other sexual offences (371 days), and sexual assault (368 days). The shortest mean elapsed time occurred for the offence of breach of probation (145 days).
- The accused was found guilty in 65% of cases, and less than 4% were acquitted. Roughly one-third (30%) of cases were either stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged, and 2% were otherwise terminated by the court.
- A term of probation, which is frequently given in combination with other sanctions, was the most frequently imposed sanction (43% of guilty cases). A term of imprisonment was imposed in 34% of cases, and a fine was given in 30% of cases.
- The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varied across the country. The highest rate of incarceration was in Prince Edward Island, where 55% of guilty cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest rates of incarceration were in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where a prison sentence was imposed in about one-quarter of cases.
- Among the ten jurisdictions (excludes Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) who consistently reported to the Adult Criminal Court Survey between 2002/2003 and 2006/2007, there was a 7% decline in the number of cases disposed of in adult criminal courts.
- Cases have become more complex in recent years. Cases involving multiple charges represented 60% of the adult caseload in 2006/2007, compared with 57% five years earlier.
- The percentage of guilty cases receiving custody has increased slightly in the past five years in the ten jurisdictions, from 32% in 2002/2003 to 34% in 2006/2007, while the percentage of guilty cases receiving fines has decreased (from 35% to 31%). During the same period, the percentage of guilty cases sentenced to probation has remained stable (45%).



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Cases disposed in adult criminal court

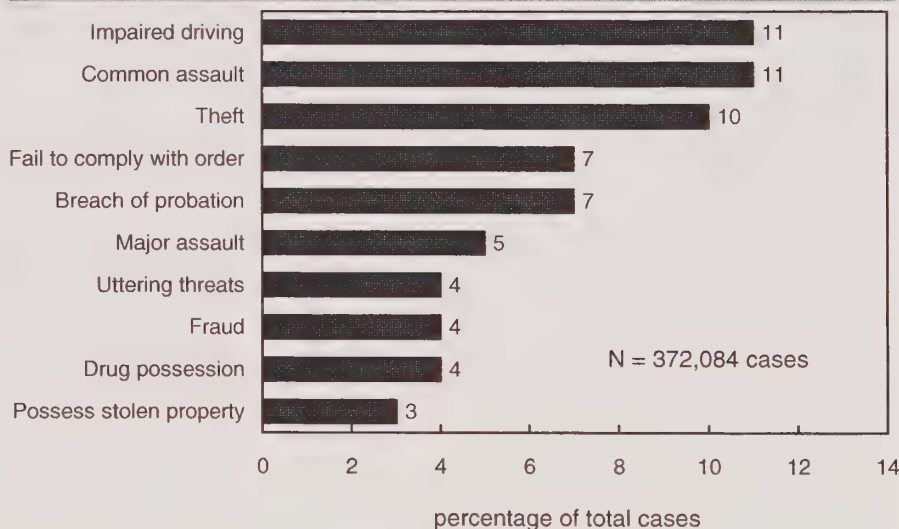
In 2006/2007, adult criminal courts in Canada processed 372,084 cases involving 1,079,062 charges. The number of cases processed was virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Most cases (88%) had a *Criminal Code* charge as the most serious offence in the case.¹ Crimes against the person accounted for 25%, and crimes against property accounted for a further 24% of the total number of cases (Table 1). Administration of justice offences constituted 17% of all cases, while *Criminal Code* traffic comprised 14% of total cases. Other *Criminal Code* (which includes weapons offences and disturbing the peace offences, among others) represented 8% of all cases.

In 2006/2007, the most frequently occurring cases were impaired driving (11%) and common assault (11%).² Theft represented 10% of all cases, followed by failure to comply with a court order (7%), breach of probation (7%) and major assault (5%) (Chart 1). Taken together, all forms of sexual assault and other sexual offences accounted for less than 2% of the caseload in adult criminal courts. Homicide and attempted murder together accounted for approximately 0.2% of total cases (Table 1).

Chart 1

Ten most frequent offences heard in adult criminal court, Canada, 2006/2007



Note: Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of national adult criminal court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Characteristics of persons appearing in court

Of all adult criminal court cases, 78% involved a male accused, while 16% involved a female accused. The sex of the accused was not recorded in 6% of the cases. The remaining cases (less than 1%) involved a company.

Offences for which males had the highest involvement included sexual assault (91%), unlawfully at large (86%) and break and enter (85%). The highest representation of females was found in cases of prostitution (33%), theft (29%), and fraud (28%).

Younger adults were over-represented in court when compared to the age distribution of the adult population.³ In 2006/2007, '18-to 24-year-olds' comprised 12% of the adult population,⁴ but accounted for 31% of all cases in adult criminal court.⁵ Similarly, persons 25 to 34 years of age accounted for 18% of the adult population and 27% of the total cases disposed in adult criminal court. (Table 2). This is consistent with police-reported statistics where rates of persons accused of violent and property offences peak among older teens and young adults and generally decline after age 25. However, for some offence types the peak age occurs later. Offences where the accused was 35 years of age or older in the majority of cases include sexual assault, uttering threats, criminal harassment, prostitution and impaired driving.

Case processing

An accused's right to be brought to trial in a timely manner is a fundamental principle within the Canadian criminal justice system, which was reaffirmed with the 1990 Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Askov*.⁶

Preparations for each case commence in the court registry with the scheduling of the first court appearance, and continue with further co-ordination of judicial resources throughout the criminal court process. There are a variety of factors, many of which are not under the direct control of the courts, which affect both case management and processing. Such factors include: the volume of cases being processed by a court; the complexity of cases; the types of offences being prosecuted; issues related to the co-ordination and availability of various participants within the criminal justice process; lawyers' decisions on the most appropriate course of action for their clients; and accused failing to appear in court.

Overall, the average (or mean)⁷ elapsed time from first to last court appearance was 237 days in 2006/2007. Elapsed times varied considerably among jurisdictions. Average elapsed times were longest in Quebec (294 days), Alberta (270 days) and Ontario (232 days) (Table 3). The longer average elapsed time in Quebec may be due in part to the absence of data from Quebec's municipal courts, which hear relatively less serious *Criminal Code* offences. Jurisdictions with the shortest average processing times included Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories where cases were completed in an average of 62 days and 67 days, respectively.

The elapsed time was greater than 8 months and less than or equal to 12 months for 12% of cases, and more than one year in 14% of cases.

Some offences take longer to resolve than others. In 2006/2007, homicide had the longest average elapsed time (451 days). Sexual assault and other sexual offences (such as

sexual interference and sexual exploitation) had an average elapsed time of 368 and 371 days, respectively, and fraud had an average elapsed time of 377 days. The shortest average elapsed time occurred for the offence of breach of probation (145 days).

Multiple-charge cases, which are often more serious, accounted for 6- in- 10 cases in 2006/2007. About one-quarter (28%) of all cases in 2006/2007 involved two charges and 32% had three or more charges. The average elapsed time for multiple-charge cases was 269 days, versus 187 days for single-charge cases.

Bench warrants increased case elapsed time

Bench warrants (i.e., arrest warrants) are usually issued when an individual fails to attend court, creating a situation where the court is unable to proceed with the case. Because it can often take a considerable amount of time to find and re-apprehend the accused, such cases can experience extensive processing delays.

In 2006/2007, 14% of completed cases had a bench warrant. During the reference year, cases with a bench warrant had a mean processing time of 338 days, compared to 219 days for cases without a bench warrant.

Jurisdictions with the highest percentage of cases having a bench warrant were Alberta (27%), British Columbia (23%) and Quebec (18%). However, average case elapsed times in British Columbia were shorter than in Ontario, where just 6% of cases had a bench warrant. There are additional factors that account for differences in average case elapsed time across jurisdictions, among them, the distribution of offences (more serious offences may take longer) and availability of court resources.⁸

Overview of case outcomes

A majority of cases had at least one finding of guilt

The accused was found guilty in about two-thirds (65%) of cases disposed in adult criminal court in 2006/2007 (Chart 2).⁹ In about one-third (30%) of cases, the most serious offence was resolved by being stayed or withdrawn, 4% of the cases resulted in the acquittal¹⁰ of the accused, and 2% had other decisions (Text box 1).

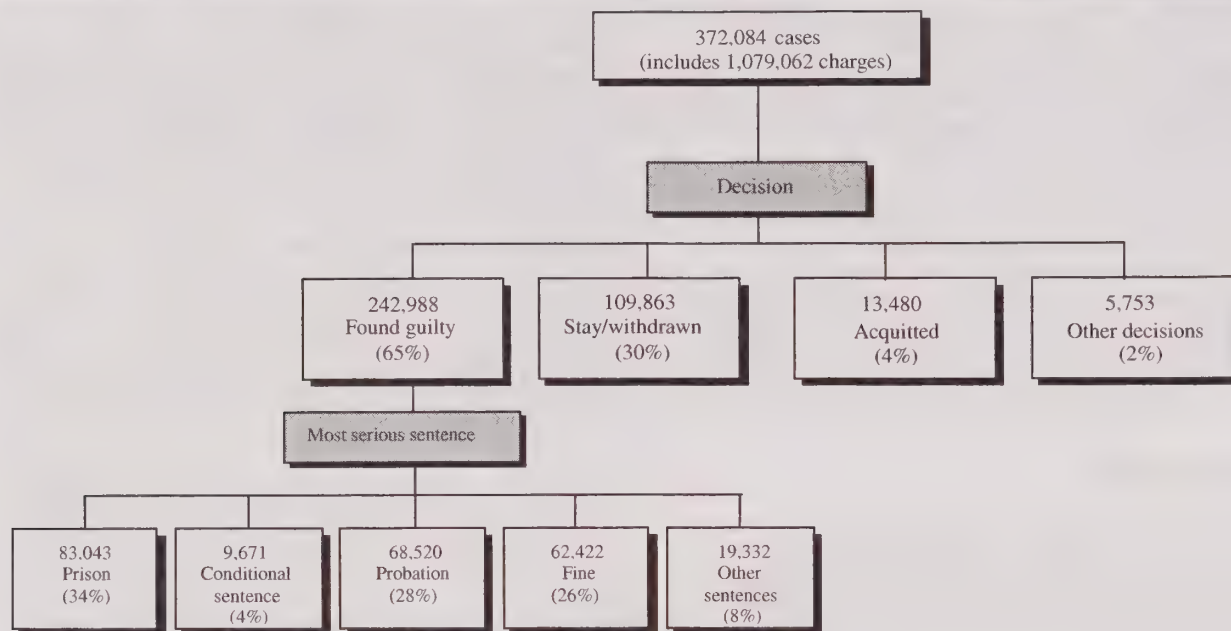
Overall, *Criminal Code* traffic offences had the highest percentage of guilty cases (79%) in 2006/2007, followed by administration of justice offences (71%) and crimes against property (66%) (Chart 3).¹¹

For crimes against the person, there was considerable variability in the percentage of cases resulting in a guilty finding, from 19% for attempted murder to 69% for robbery (Chart 4).

In contrast, there was notable uniformity for crimes against property cases, ranging from 60% for possession of stolen property to 72% for break and enter (Chart 5).

Chart 2

Adult court processing of federal statute cases in provincial and selected superior courts, Canada, 2006/2007



Notes: Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges. Stay/withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharges at preliminary inquiry. Other decisions include final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes decisions where a conviction was not recorded, the court accepted a special plea, cases which raised Charter arguments or cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. The sentence was not known in less than 1% of convicted cases in 2006/2007. Conditional sentencing data was not collected in Quebec for 2006/2007, resulting in an undercount of conditional sentences. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of national adult criminal court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Text box 1

Decisions in Adult Criminal Court

The decision categories in this report are as follows:

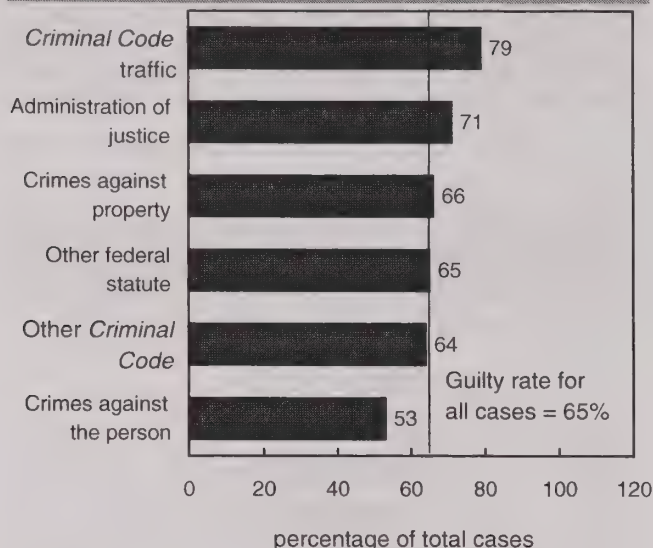
- **Found guilty** includes guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes cases where an individual has been found guilty but was given an absolute or conditional discharge.
- **Stay or withdrawn** includes stay of proceedings, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry. These decisions all refer to the court stopping or interrupting criminal proceedings against the accused.
- **Acquittal** means that the accused has been found not guilty of the charges presented before the court. In some jurisdictions, the number of acquittals may be over-reported due to administrative practices.
- **Other decisions** includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, and waived out of province/territory. This category also includes mistrials, the court's acceptance of a special plea (e.g. autrefois acquit), cases which raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial following a fitness hearing. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan), the "other decision" category also includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court.

Overall, the percentage of guilty cases was highest in New Brunswick (80%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (77%), and lowest in Ontario (59%), Manitoba (62%) and Yukon (63%) (Table 4).

There are several possible factors that influence variations among jurisdictions. First, the use of diversion programs and alternative measures affects the number and types of cases that proceed to court. Secondly, the use of stays and withdrawals, including court-sponsored diversion programs will have an impact on the percentage of cases in which a finding of guilt is recorded. For example, 39% of cases were stayed or withdrawn in Ontario compared with 16% in New Brunswick. Thirdly, the use of pre-charge screening by the Crown, which occurs in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia, may also affect the percentage of guilty findings through increased vetting of charges. Finally, the proportion of multiple-charge cases may influence the percentage of guilty cases. For instance, in 2006/2007 the percentage of cases found guilty for multiple charge cases was 75% compared to 50% for single charge cases.

Chart 3

Cases found guilty, Canada, 2006/2007

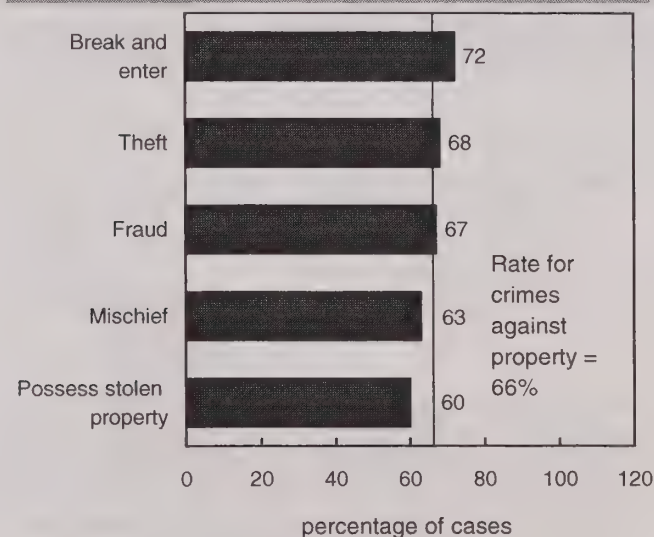


Notes: Found guilty cases include absolute and conditional discharges. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of national adult criminal court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 5

Cases found guilty with a crime against property as the most serious offence in the case, Canada, 2006/2007

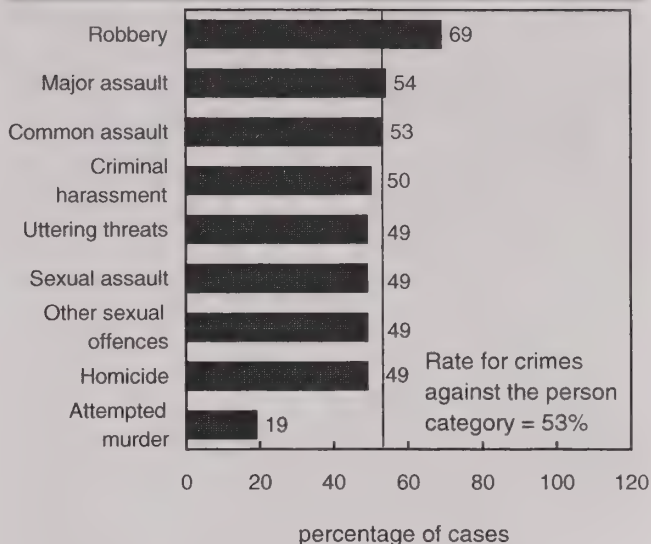


Notes: Found guilty cases include absolute and conditional discharges. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of adult criminal caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 4

Cases found guilty with a crime against the person as the most serious offence in the case, Canada, 2006/2007



Notes: Found guilty cases include absolute and conditional discharges. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Sentencing patterns

At sentencing, the court will seek to impose a sentence that reflects the principles of the sentencing process, as outlined by section 718 of the *Criminal Code* (Text box 2).

In 2006/2007, probation was the most frequent sentence, imposed in 43% of all guilty cases. This is not surprising as probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge or a suspended sentence. Prison was imposed in 34% of cases and fines in 30% of all cases.¹⁴ A conditional sentence was given in 4% of cases while restitution was given in 3% of guilty cases.¹⁵ (Table 5)

Looking more closely at crimes against the person it was found that 31% of cases where the accused was found guilty they received a sentence of imprisonment. One factor to be considered when examining the use of incarceration in this category is that common assault – the least serious form of assault (level 1) with a relatively low use of incarceration (16%) – represented a large proportion (45%) of guilty cases in the crimes against the person category. When common assault is removed, the remainder of the crimes against the person category has a higher use of incarceration (44%).

Concerning crimes against property, offenders were sentenced to prison in 41% of guilty cases. Persons committing these offences tend to have longer criminal histories, and after the seriousness of the crime, an offender's criminal history is

Text box 2

Principal sentencing options in Canada¹²

The main types of sanctions¹³ that can be imposed in Canada include the following:

- **Imprisonment:** This involves a term of custody served in a provincial/territorial or federal institution. Sentences of two years or more are served in a federal penitentiary, while terms of less than two years are served in provincial/territorial correctional facilities. Sentences of 90 days or less can be served intermittently, which usually refers to serving the sentence on weekends. There are a number of offences, such as impaired driving, homicide and offences committed using a firearm, having minimum sentencing provisions, which affect the nature and length of sentences imposed.
- **Conditional sentence:** The Sentencing Reform Bill C-41 was enacted in 1996 establishing a new community-based conditional sentencing option as an alternative to imprisonment. With a conditional sentence of imprisonment, the execution of the prison sentence is suspended. In terms of seriousness, it is less serious than prison but more serious than a term of probation. Like probation, conditional sentences are served in the community under supervision and often include a number of conditions restricting the movement and activities of the offender. Unlike probation, however, violation of a condition of a conditional sentence can result in immediate suspension and imprisonment of the offender.
- **Probation:** An offender sentenced to a term of probation remains in the community, but is subject to a number of conditions for the duration of the probation order. Some conditions are compulsory and apply to all offenders on probation. These include keeping the peace and appearing before the court when required to do so. The optional conditions vary from case to case, and can include performing community service, abstaining from the consumption of alcohol and attending treatment. Violating the conditions of a probation order is a criminal offence subject to possible prosecution that could result in a maximum sentence of imprisonment of two years. Probation is mandatory in cases where the accused is given a conditional discharge or a suspended sentence.
- **Fine:** When a fine is imposed, the offender is ordered to pay a specific dollar amount to the court. Unless the offender has been found guilty of an offence carrying a minimum term of imprisonment, or a maximum penalty of more than 5 years, an offender may be fined in lieu of other types of punishment.
- **Other types of sanctions:** In addition to these principal sentencing options, the courts can choose a variety of other sentencing options, such as restitution, compensation, or an absolute discharge.

Multiple sanctions may be imposed, but there are specific rules that govern the types of sentencing options that can be ordered in combination.

one of the most important factors considered by the court when determining the sanction to be imposed.¹⁶ Prison was frequently used as a sanction for guilty cases in several crimes against property offences. For example, 61% of guilty break and enter cases, 50% of possession of stolen property cases, and more than a third (40%) of theft and fraud (36%) cases resulted in a prison sentence.

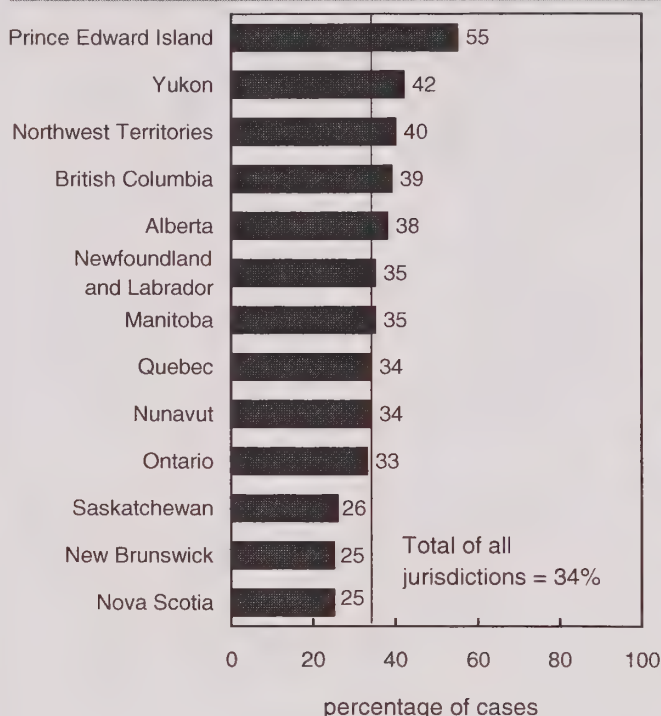
Half of guilty cases (48%) for administration of justice offences were sentenced to prison. This category is dominated by offences where the accused did not comply with the orders of the court (e.g., breach of probation, and failure to comply with a court order).

Use of imprisonment varied considerably across the country

The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies across the country. In 2006/2007, the highest rate of incarceration was in Prince Edward Island, where 55% of guilty cases resulted in a term of imprisonment, while the lowest rates of incarceration were in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan where prison was imposed in about one-quarter of cases (Chart 6).

Chart 6

Cases sentenced to prison for the most serious offence in the case, Canada, 2006/2007



Notes: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of adult criminal court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

This variation in the use of incarceration reflects the influence of several factors. First, the mix of offences being sentenced can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. If a particular jurisdiction has a higher than average percentage of the more serious crimes, it may also have a higher than average overall percentage of cases being sent to prison.

Second, courts in different parts of the country may use incarceration in different ways. In Prince Edward Island, for example, offenders are frequently sent to prison for their first impaired driving offence.¹⁷ Since this offence category accounts

for 30% of guilty cases in the province, the overall proportion of cases sentenced to prison in Prince Edward Island will be higher than the national average. Of all guilty impaired driving cases in Prince Edward Island, 85% resulted in incarceration. This is by far the highest in Canada followed by Newfoundland and Labrador at 32%. The lowest rate of incarceration for guilty cases of impaired driving occurred in British Columbia where 4% were incarcerated.

Most terms of imprisonment are relatively short

Nationally, over half (55%) of all custodial sentences imposed in 2006/2007 were one month or less, while an additional one-third (31%) were for periods from greater than one month up to six months.^{18,19} Custodial sentences of greater than six months but less than two years were imposed in 10% of guilty cases with prison, and 4% were sentenced to custody for two years or more (Chart 7).²⁰

Probation more likely for crimes against the person

In 2006/2007, crimes against the person were most likely to include a term of probation (Table 5). Three-quarters (73%) of guilty cases in this category received probation, compared to 54% of offenders guilty of a crime against property. It should be noted that a substantial proportion of cases involving crimes against the person also received a term of imprisonment along with a probation order. Of the 35,126 guilty crimes against the person cases that received probation in 2006/2007, 31% also received a prison sentence.

In 2006/2007, the most common probation term length was greater than six months to one year (51% of guilty cases with probation) (Chart 8).²¹ One-third (31%) of cases were greater than one year to two years in length. (The statutory limit on a term of probation is three years.)

Fines most often seen for traffic offences

As indicated previously, one-third (30%) of guilty cases were given a fine, of which the mean amount was \$758 (Table 5). Guilty cases where a fine was most frequently imposed were impaired driving (86%), drug possession (50%), other *Criminal Code* traffic (40%), disturbing the peace (36%), and residual federal statutes (61%) such as the *Income Tax Act*.

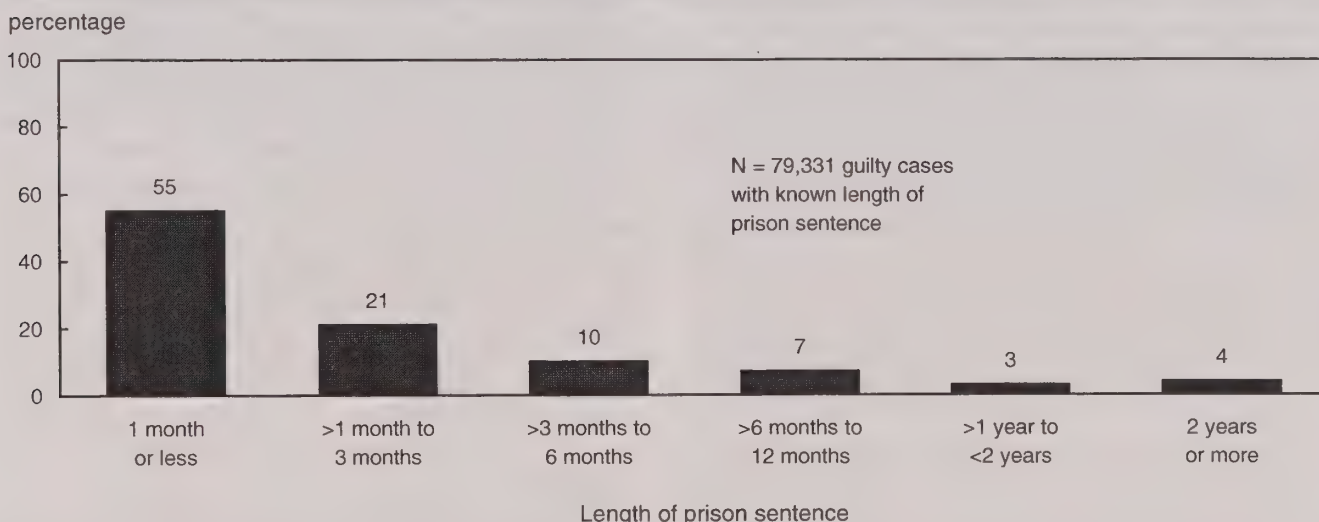
Superior court statistics, selected provinces and territories, 2006/2007

Superior courts hear indictable offences (i.e. more serious), and are the only courts with jurisdiction to try first and second degree murder charges, which (along with infanticide and manslaughter) account for 5% of the superior court caseload. For charges other than the most serious indictable offences,²² the accused can elect the mode of trial.²³

In 2006/2007, 1,402 cases (1%) were completed in superior court in seven jurisdictions.²⁴ The most common cases were crimes against the person (39% of superior court cases), followed by other federal statute (35%) and crimes against property (12%).

Chart 7

Guilty cases by length of prison sentence, for the most serious offence in the case, Canada, 2006/2007

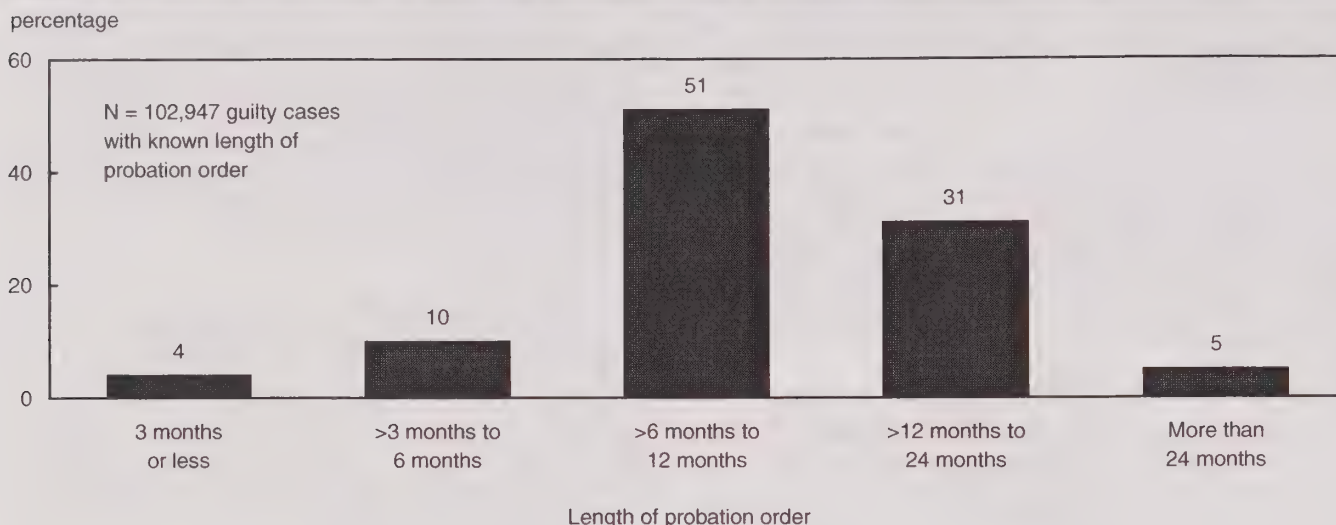


Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Excludes 4% of cases where the length of prison sentence was unknown (3,712 cases). Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 8

Guilty cases by length of probation for the most serious offence in the case, Canada, 2006/2007



Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Excludes cases where the length of probation sentence was unknown (2% or 2,468 cases). Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Although superior courts had a higher proportion of crimes against the person cases than provincial court (39% and 23% respectively), superior courts did dispose of cases in almost every offence category in 2006/2007. Close to half of the homicide²⁵ cases (43%) for the seven jurisdictions were completed in superior court. Fifteen percent of attempted murder cases and 10% of sexual assault cases were completed in superior court.

On average, superior court cases take longer to process than provincial court cases. In jurisdictions reporting superior court data in 2006/2007, the mean elapsed time for cases completed in superior court (i.e. the average time from the first appearance in provincial court to the last appearance in superior court) was close to one year (349 days), compared to 221 days for cases completed in provincial court in these jurisdictions. For each offence type completed in superior court, the mean elapsed times were considerably longer in superior court than provincial court (Table 6). The complexity of cases as well as the procedures used to elect trial in superior court, scheduling a trial, and jury selection are some of the factors contributing to the longer case processing times. Although superior courts process relatively few cases, these cases slightly increased overall case processing times for the reporting jurisdictions.

Cases in superior court are less likely than cases heard in provincial court to result in a finding of guilt. In 2006/2007, just over one-half (55%) of cases completed in superior court in the reporting jurisdictions were found guilty compared to 69% in provincial court. In superior court, the accused was more likely to be acquitted compared to cases completed in provincial court (10% versus 2%, respectively).

The lower percentage of guilty cases and the higher acquittal rate in superior courts may reflect the fact that these courts hear a larger proportion of cases involving serious offences than provincial court. Serious violent offences may sometimes be more difficult to prove in court as a result of a number of factors including the number and availability of witnesses, the number of charges in the case and the complexity of evidence presented by the Crown.

Almost half (48%) of guilty cases in superior court resulted in a prison sentence, and one in five (22%) resulted in a conditional sentence in 2006/2007. Probation was a sanction in 23% of guilty cases, and 7% of cases resulted in a fine. Compared to provincial court, prison is more frequently used in superior court for offences under crimes against the person.

In 2006/2007, cases with a prison sentence in superior court had a mean sentence length of 989 days (nearly three years).²⁶ In provincial court, the mean prison sentence length was 111 days. For all offence groups, the mean and median prison sentence lengths were considerably higher in superior court than provincial court (Table 7). Again this may reflect the fact that superior courts hear a larger proportion of cases involving more serious offences.

Trends

According to the ten jurisdictions²⁷ who have consistently reported to the survey between 2002/2003 and 2006/2007, the number of adult criminal court cases processed in 2006/2007 increased slightly to 353,279, up less than 1% over the previous

year. The longer-term trend (over the last decade) has been downward. In fact, the number of cases disposed in 2006/2007 represents a 7% decrease over the number of cases completed in 2002/2003 (Table 8).

This downward trend generally corresponds to the pattern in police-recorded crime statistics reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.²⁸ From 2002 to 2006, there was a 3% drop in the rate of adults charged. More evident is the 16% decline in the rate of adults charged from 1996 to 2005.

Proportions of caseload for all offence groups have remained quite stable over the period.

Cases are becoming more complex

Adult criminal court cases have become more complex over the last decade. Multiple-charge cases represented 60% of the caseload in 2006/2007, as they have in the two previous fiscal years. In 2002/2003, multiple-charge cases represented 57% of the caseload.

In 2006/2007, the average number of appearances per case was 9.6, up from 9.1 in the previous year. Five years earlier, the figure was 7.9. This suggests that the demand placed on court resources has increased over time, even though the number of completed cases has remained fairly stable.

Case elapsed times continue their long term trend toward increased duration. Average elapsed times have exceeded 7 months (210 days) in the past four years. Overall, the average case elapsed time increased from 195 days in 2002/2003 to 238 days in 2006/2007.²⁹ The mean processing time for the least complex cases, those with a single charge, increased from 154 to 189 days over the same period, while the processing time for multiple-charge cases increased from 225 to 270 days. While the differential between elapsed times for single- and multiple-charge cases has remained fairly steady over the five years, factors other than number of charges in the case may have an impact on case processing time. These factors include, among others, the seriousness of offences in the case, preliminary inquiry, the type of plea and whether the accused failed to appear in court at some point in time during the case.³⁰

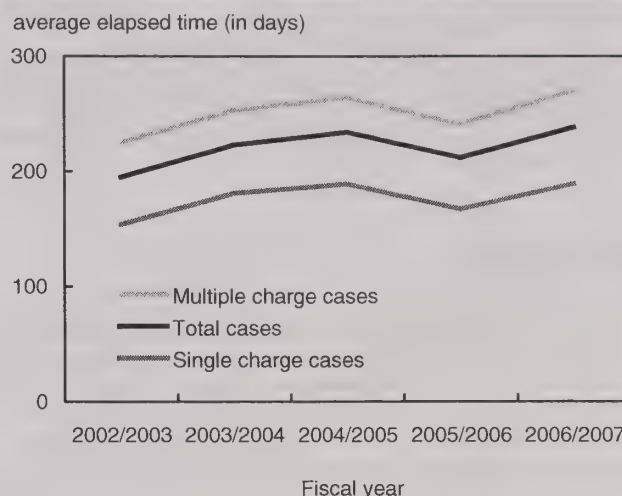
Use of both imprisonment and probation have remained stable

At 34%, the proportion of guilty cases sentenced to prison in 2006/2007 was unchanged from the previous year. The proportion has not varied much over time; it was only slightly higher in 2006/2007 than it was five years earlier (32%). Of guilty drug trafficking cases, the percentage of cases where prison was imposed increased from 42% to 48% over the same period, while the percentage of cases that received a conditional sentence dropped from 31% to 28%.

In 2006/2007, the mean prison sentence length was 124 days, the same as five years earlier (Table 9). However, these figures conceal changes in mean prison sentence lengths for some offences. The mean prison sentence length for other sexual offences (mostly sexual offences against children)

Chart 9

Average elapsed time from first to last appearance in adult criminal court, ten provinces and territories in Canada, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007



Notes: This trend analysis table does not include data from Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data for five year trend analysis (ten jurisdictions) is estimated at 90%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

rose from 468 days in 2002/2003 to 526 days in 2006/2007. Drug trafficking offences also had an increase in mean prison sentence length, from 220 days in 2002/2003 to 280 days in 2006/2007.

The proportion of cases receiving probation as a sanction has been stable at 45% over the past five years. The mean length of probation orders generally has been stable around 450 days over the past five years (Table 10).

Imposition of fine sentences have moderately decreased

Since the mid-1990s, the imposition of fine sentences has been decreasing. In 2006/2007, 31% of guilty cases were given a fine, down from 35% in 2002/2003. The mean amount of fine, which was \$747 in 2002/2003, increased to \$827 in 2005/2006, before dropping back down to \$759 in 2006/2007 (Table 11).³¹

Several factors may be responsible for the relative decreasing imposition of fines. Bill C-41 (in force September, 1996) amended the *Criminal Code* to direct judges to impose fines only after ascertaining if the offender has the ability to pay [CCC s. 734(2)]. Over the longer term, this amendment may have encouraged greater use of probation in lieu of fines for offenders that would otherwise be at risk of incarceration due to default of fine payment. Additionally, some offences (i.e., *Criminal Code* traffic) are more likely to result in fines than others, so changes over time in the caseload composition (i.e., fewer *Criminal Code* traffic cases) will tend to affect the proportion of all guilty cases receiving fines. There was a one

percentage point drop in *Criminal Code* traffic cases over the five year reference period.

Overall, the adult criminal court data have remained quite stable over time. However, it is important to note that despite a long-term decline in the number of charges laid by police, those cases that appeared in court were more complex, required more appearances and took longer to dispose of. These factors likely played a significant role in the decline in the number of cases being completed in adult criminal courts over the last several years.

Methodology

This product is based on case characteristics data from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) and Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). Data on federal statute charges are collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for adult criminal courts. The surveys consist of a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute charges dealt with in adult criminal courts. The ICCS/ACCS represent approximately 98% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

The individuals involved are persons 18 years or older at the time of the offence, companies, as well as youth who have been transferred to adult criminal court.³²

Coverage

In 2006/2007, criminal courts in all provinces and territories reported provincial court data to the ICCS/ACCS. In addition, all jurisdictions (with the exception of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan) reported superior court data to the survey.

Some limitations on coverage of the surveys should be noted. Data from the Northwest Territories are not available for 2002/2003 or 2003/2004. Manitoba began reporting to the survey in 2005/2006. Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately one-quarter of *Criminal Code* charges in that province) is not yet collected.

The absence of data from four superior court jurisdictions (noted above) may result in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences imposed across Canada because some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. There may also be slight underestimation of case elapsed times across Canada because more serious cases involve a defence election and may involve a preliminary inquiry or jury selection, and therefore may require more appearances and take more time to complete.

Counting procedures

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) has a new data collection strategy, designed to integrate the collection of

adult and youth court data, and includes a new data model. Data contained in this report represent the adult criminal court portion of that survey.

The primary unit of analysis is the "person-case". The concept of a case has changed from previous releases to more closely reflect court processing. The new definition combines all charges against the same person having overlapping court dates into a single case. The previous definition combined all charges against the same person disposed of in court on the same day into a case. This tended to undercount the number of charges in a case, overcount the number of cases and underestimate the length of time required to process a case through court because not all charges are necessarily disposed of on the same day.

The impact of this change is noticeable in the compression of case counts as well as conviction rates for some jurisdictions, where certain administrative practices (e.g., use of stays, relays, withdrawals, transfers, etc.) may have resulted in multiple cases against an accused using the previous end-date definition.

Since all data (from 1994/1995 to 2006/2007) obtained through the ICCS and ACCS have been processed using the new case definition, data from this report should not be compared with data released prior to October 2007.

Most serious offence and decision rules

When a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. In such multiple-charge cases, the "most serious decision" rule is applied. Decisions are ranked from the most to the least serious as follows: 1) guilty, 2) guilty of a lesser offence, 3) acquitted, 4) stay of proceeding, 5) withdrawn, dismissed and discharged 6) not criminally responsible 7) other, 8) transfer of court jurisdiction.

In cases where two or more offences have resulted in the same decision (e.g., guilty), the "most serious offence" rule is applied. All charges are ranked according to an offence seriousness scale, which is based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on guilty charges between 1999/2000 and 2003/2004. If two charges are tied according to this criterion, information about the sentence type (e.g., prison, probation, and fine) is considered. If a tie still exists, the magnitude of the sentence is considered.

Factors influencing the number of charges laid

Charging policies vary by province and territory. In New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia, for example, the police must obtain the approval of the Crown prosecutor before a charge is laid. In other provinces and territories, the police have exclusive responsibility for the laying of a charge. This variability may affect the number and nature of charges laid across the country.

Endnotes

1. For analytical purposes, when a case has more than one charge, it is necessary to decide which charge will be used to represent the case. If the case includes a finding of guilt, that charge will always be considered the most serious. The most serious offence in a case with multiple guilty findings is determined based on the type of offence and the sentences imposed. See methodology section for more information on ICCS/ACCS counting procedures and most serious offence rules.
2. There are three levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*. Common assault (Assault Level I, s. 266) is the least serious of the three levels. A 'common' assault has been committed when an individual intentionally applies force or threatens to apply force to another person, without that person's consent. Major assault is an offence category that includes the higher levels of assault in the *Criminal Code*: assault with a weapon (Assault Level II, s. 267), aggravated assault (Assault Level III, s. 268), and other assaults (e.g. assaulting a police officer, and unlawfully causing bodily harm).
3. Age represents the offender's age in the year the offence was alleged to have been committed.
4. Population estimates as of July 2006 for adults for Canada.
5. Excludes cases where age of the accused was unknown and cases against companies.
6. 59 C.C.C. (3d) 449. In this decision, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of an accused to be brought to trial without excessive delay. Further clarification of the issue was provided by R. v. Morin (1992) 71 C.C.C. (3d) 193 (S.C.C.). The judgement in Morin suggested that an eight to ten month delay was tolerable between charges being laid and the subsequent trial in provincial court.
7. The mean is the average value of all the data in the dataset.
8. For more information on factors affecting case elapsed time, see J. Pereira and C. Grimes, "Case processing in criminal courts, 1999/2000." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE. Vol. 22, no. 1. Ottawa.
9. Includes absolute and conditional discharges. After a guilty decision is rendered, the court may discharge the accused absolutely or on conditions specified in a probation order (*Criminal Code* of Canada. s.730).
10. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably. This results in an undercounting of acquittals from that jurisdiction. In some jurisdictions, the number of acquittals may be over-reported due to administrative practices.
11. First and second degree murder cases are under the exclusive jurisdiction of superior courts. In jurisdictions not reporting superior courts data, the final decisions in these cases will be a transfer to another court level. This leads to an under-estimate of the percentage of such cases resulting in the accused being found guilty.
12. See B. Bélanger. 2001. "Sentencing in adult criminal courts, 1999/2000." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE. Vol. 21, no. 10. Ottawa.
13. For more information on sentencing options and the nature of the 1996 sentencing reforms see J. Roberts and D. Cole (eds). 1999. *Making Sense of Sentencing*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
14. Cases can have more than one sentence. Therefore, sanctions are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100%.
15. In 2006/2007, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec.
16. See M. Thomas, H. Hurley, and C. Grimes. 2002. "Pilot analysis of recidivism among convicted youth and young adults – 1999/2000." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE. Vol. 22, no. 9. Ottawa.
17. The minimum sentence for a first offence of impaired driving is a fine of not less than \$600 (C.C.C. s. 255(1) (a) (i)).
18. Excludes cases with a prison sentence, but unknown prison length.
19. Time in custody prior to sentencing is sometimes taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the ACCS.
20. Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.
21. Excludes cases where the length of probation was unknown.
22. Superior court has absolute jurisdiction over the indictable offences listed in section 469 of the *Criminal Code*. These offences include murder, treason, and intimidating Parliament, among others. Provincial court has absolute jurisdiction over the offences listed in C.C.C. s. 553, which includes failure to comply with probation order, driving while disqualified, theft (other than theft of cattle), etc. All other indictable offences are eligible for election to superior court by the accused.
23. It may also be possible for superior courts to hear summary offences when they have been transferred due to the election of an indictable offence in the same case.
24. The analysis of superior court data covers seven jurisdictions and excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut. Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan currently do not report superior court data to the ICCS/ACCS. Nunavut has a single level trial court. Prince Edward Island superior court data do not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance for cases completed in superior court. As a result, Prince Edward Island data were not included in the analysis.
25. Homicide includes murder (1st and 2nd degree), infanticide, and manslaughter.
26. Excludes cases with a prison sentence, but unknown prison length.
27. Trend analysis in this Juristat covers the five year period from 2002/2003 to 2006/2007 and includes the ten jurisdictions that have participated in the survey all five years: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon. Survey coverage for this period is approximately 90% of the national adult criminal court caseload.
28. See W. Silver 2007. "Crime statistics in Canada, 2006." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE. Vol. 27, no. 5. Ottawa.
29. The 2006/2007 mean case elapsed time for the ten jurisdictions may vary from those in Table 3 because Table 3 includes Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, for which long-term trend information is not available from the ACCS.
30. See J. Pereira and C. Grimes. 2002. "Case processing in Criminal Courts – 1999/2000." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE. Vol. 22, no. 1. Ottawa.
31. Figures represent fine amounts in current dollars.
32. Under the *Young Offenders Act* (repealed in 2003), it was possible for a youth to be tried as an adult. Such matters were transferred to adult criminal court. Under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (April 2003), youth may be subject to adult sentencing but remain in youth court.

Table 1

Charges and cases in adult criminal court, Canada, 2006/2007

Offence category	Total charges		Total cases	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total offences	1,079,062	100.0	372,084	100.0
<i>Criminal Code</i> total	963,345	89.0	327,975	88.0
Crimes against the person	215,046	20.0	91,386	25.0
Homicide	483	0.1	288	0.1
Attempted murder	589	0.1	223	0.1
Robbery	10,090	0.9	4,208	1.1
Sexual assault	8,439	0.8	3,090	0.8
Other sexual offences	4,652	0.4	1,477	0.4
Major assault	44,957	4.2	19,351	5.2
Common assault	84,965	7.9	40,957	11.0
Uttering threats	44,667	4.1	16,273	4.4
Criminal harassment	7,690	0.7	2,902	0.8
Other crimes against the person	8,514	0.8	2,617	0.7
Crimes against property	263,541	24.0	89,354	24.0
Theft	80,138	7.4	37,054	10.0
Break and enter	28,680	2.7	11,579	3.1
Fraud	63,237	5.9	14,837	4.0
Mischief	36,051	3.3	12,198	3.3
Possess stolen property	53,187	4.9	12,940	3.5
Other property crimes	2,248	0.2	746	0.2
Administration of justice	257,112	24.0	64,927	17.0
Fail to appear	23,377	2.2	5,051	1.4
Breach of probation	90,675	8.4	27,186	7.3
Unlawfully at large	5,827	0.5	2,459	0.7
Fail to comply with order	131,018	12.1	27,708	7.5
Other administration of justice	6,215	0.6	2,523	0.7
Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	110,358	10.0	30,827	8.0
Weapons	36,325	3.4	8,739	2.3
Prostitution	3,616	0.3	1,970	0.5
Disturbing the peace	6,207	0.6	2,171	0.6
Residual <i>Criminal Code</i>	64,210	6.0	17,947	4.8
<i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	117,288	11.0	51,481	14.0
Impaired driving	95,503	8.9	41,233	11.1
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	21,785	2.0	10,248	2.8
Other federal statute total	115,717	11.0	44,109	12.0
Drug possession	35,001	3.2	13,919	3.7
Drug trafficking	26,910	2.5	10,959	2.9
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act</i>	5,325	0.5	1,131	0.3
Residual federal statutes	48,481	4.5	18,100	4.9

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of adult court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 2

Cases by age of accused, adult criminal court, Canada, 2006/2007

Offence category	Total cases	Age group									
		18 to 24		25 to 34		35 to 44		45 to 54		55 plus	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total offences	361,805	111,204	30.7	99,400	27.5	86,953	24.0	45,944	12.7	18,304	5.1
Criminal Code total	319,430	95,145	29.8	88,727	27.8	78,517	24.6	40,972	12.8	16,069	5.0
Crimes against the person	89,369	23,031	25.8	25,473	28.5	24,065	26.9	12,150	13.6	4,650	5.2
Homicide	272	124	45.6	74	27.2	47	17.3	14	5.1	13	4.8
Attempted murder	218	77	35.3	72	33.0	34	15.6	23	10.6	12	5.5
Robbery	4,160	1,969	47.3	1,149	27.6	757	18.2	253	6.1	32	0.8
Sexual assault	3,016	646	21.4	779	25.8	803	26.6	478	15.8	310	10.3
Other sexual offences	1,446	215	14.9	373	25.8	440	30.4	239	16.5	179	12.4
Major assault	19,013	6,178	32.5	5,461	28.7	4,397	23.1	2,166	11.4	811	4.3
Common assault	40,021	9,349	23.4	11,629	29.1	11,352	28.4	5,655	14.1	2,036	5.1
Uttering threats	15,920	3,340	21.0	4,460	28.0	4,651	29.2	2,525	15.9	944	5.9
Criminal harassment	2,760	455	16.5	720	26.1	869	31.5	499	18.1	217	7.9
Other crimes against the person	2,543	678	26.7	756	29.7	715	28.1	298	11.7	96	3.8
Crimes against property	88,154	29,726	33.7	24,264	27.5	20,769	23.6	10,045	11.4	3,350	3.8
Theft	36,626	10,481	28.6	9,471	25.9	9,419	25.7	5,290	14.4	1,965	5.4
Break and enter	11,421	4,826	42.3	3,208	28.1	2,445	21.4	792	6.9	150	1.3
Fraud	14,556	4,239	29.1	4,603	31.6	3,680	25.3	1,576	10.8	458	3.1
Mischief	12,038	5,039	41.9	3,171	26.3	2,398	19.9	1,081	9.0	349	2.9
Possess stolen property	12,777	4,818	37.7	3,617	28.3	2,697	21.1	1,231	9.6	414	3.2
Other property crimes	736	323	43.9	194	26.4	130	17.7	75	10.2	14	1.9
Administration of justice	63,965	20,961	32.8	19,161	30.0	15,449	24.2	6,669	10.4	1,725	2.7
Fail to appear	4,930	1,736	35.2	1,516	30.8	1,124	22.8	439	8.9	115	2.3
Breach of probation	26,959	8,586	31.8	8,423	31.2	6,601	24.5	2,706	10.0	643	2.4
Unlawfully at large	2,437	667	27.4	818	33.6	663	27.2	257	10.5	32	1.3
Fail to comply with order	27,239	9,239	33.9	7,753	28.5	6,458	23.7	2,965	10.9	824	3.0
Other administration of justice	2,400	733	30.5	651	27.1	603	25.1	302	12.6	111	4.6
Other Criminal Code	26,767	9,228	34.5	7,350	27.5	5,761	21.5	3,037	11.3	1,391	5.2
Weapons	8,649	3,497	40.4	2,127	24.6	1,599	18.5	941	10.9	485	5.6
Prostitution	1,951	278	14.2	570	29.2	558	28.6	365	18.7	180	9.2
Disturbing the peace	2,158	870	40.3	551	25.5	436	20.2	228	10.6	73	3.4
Residual Criminal Code	14,009	4,583	32.7	4,102	29.3	3,168	22.6	1,503	10.7	653	4.7
Criminal Code traffic	51,175	12,199	23.8	12,479	24.4	12,473	24.4	9,071	17.7	4,953	9.7
Impaired driving	40,999	9,364	22.8	9,679	23.6	9,957	24.3	7,662	18.7	4,337	10.6
Other Criminal Code traffic	10,176	2,835	27.9	2,800	27.5	2,516	24.7	1,409	13.8	616	6.1
Other federal statute total	42,375	16,059	37.9	10,673	25.2	8,436	19.9	4,972	11.7	2,235	5.3
Drug possession	13,782	6,403	46.5	3,618	26.3	2,337	17.0	1,203	8.7	221	1.6
Drug trafficking	10,768	3,750	34.8	3,055	28.4	2,395	22.2	1,197	11.1	371	3.4
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	1,086	1,072	98.7	3	0.3	6	0.6	3	0.3	2	0.2
Residual federal statutes	16,739	4,834	28.9	3,997	23.9	3,698	22.1	2,569	15.3	1,641	9.8
Population¹	25,504,186	3,118,681	12.2	4,463,557	17.5	5,062,519	19.8	5,044,882	19.8	7,814,847	30.6

1. Population estimates as of July 2006. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of adult court caseload.

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Age is the age of the accused at the time of the offence. Excludes 10,279 (2.8%) cases where age of the accused was unknown or under 18 at the time of the offence. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 3

Elapsed time to complete a case in adult criminal court, Canada, 2006/2007

Jurisdiction	Total cases number	Elapsed time (in days) from first to last court appearance											
		Mean days	Median days	One day		Greater than one day to 4 months		Greater than 4 months to 8 months		Greater than 8 months to 12 months		Greater than 12 months	
				number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total	372,084	237	122	37,782	10.2	160,920	43.2	75,809	20.4	46,482	12.5	51,091	13.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,765	208	119	834	17.5	1,720	36.1	1,010	21.2	614	12.9	587	12.3
Prince Edward Island	1,332	62	29	422	31.7	736	55.3	131	9.8	32	2.4	11	0.8
Nova Scotia	11,685	197	121	1,958	16.8	4,271	36.6	2,604	22.3	1,563	13.4	1,289	11.0
New Brunswick	7,533	165	78	1,596	21.2	3,329	44.2	1,518	20.2	558	7.4	532	7.1
Quebec	66,819	294	183	7,622	11.4	20,286	30.4	13,483	20.2	9,484	14.2	15,944	23.9
Ontario	147,424	232	120	10,726	7.3	68,438	46.4	30,545	20.7	19,718	13.4	17,997	12.2
Manitoba	16,230	223	129	2,113	13.0	6,322	39.0	3,028	18.7	1,854	11.4	2,913	17.9
Saskatchewan	17,390	189	92	3,295	18.9	7,615	43.8	3,179	18.3	1,524	8.8	1,777	10.2
Alberta	51,144	270	109	4,370	8.5	24,883	48.7	11,814	23.1	5,301	10.4	4,776	9.3
British Columbia	44,289	190	107	4,171	9.4	21,406	48.3	7,960	18.0	5,619	12.7	5,133	11.6
Yukon	898	133	95	93	10.4	520	57.9	184	20.5	74	8.2	27	3.0
Northwest Territories	1,053	67	29	369	35.0	553	52.5	103	9.8	17	1.6	11	1.0
Nunavut	1,522	129	76	213	14.0	841	55.3	250	16.4	124	8.1	94	6.2

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. The mean is the average value of the number of days from the first to last court appearance. The median represents the mid-point in the sorted dataset, where exactly half the dataset are above and half below the mid-point. Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Mean and median elapsed time includes cases completed in superior courts (except for in Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan). Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of adult court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 4

Cases by decision, adult criminal court, Canada, 2006/2007

Jurisdiction	Total cases number	Decision							
		Found guilty		Stay/withdrawn		Acquittal		Other	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total	372,084	242,988	65	109,863	30	13,480	4	5,753	2
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,765	3,650	77	1,052	22	19	0	44	1
Prince Edward Island	1,332	927	70	392	29	9	1	4	0
Nova Scotia	11,685	7,637	65	3,591	31	352	3	105	1
New Brunswick	7,533	6,063	80	1,219	16	172	2	79	1
Quebec	66,819	48,475	73	6,502	10	10,091	15	1,751	3
Ontario	147,424	87,196	59	56,991	39	1,024	1	2,213	2
Manitoba	16,230	10,031	62	6,103	38	92	1	4	0
Saskatchewan	17,390	11,955	69	5,200	30	147	1	88	1
Alberta	51,144	33,411	65	16,141	32	609	1	983	2
British Columbia	44,289	31,273	71	11,706	26	904	2	406	1
Yukon	898	563	63	295	33	12	1	28	3
Northwest Territories	1,053	781	74	252	24	14	1	6	1
Nunavut	1,522	1,026	67	419	28	35	2	42	3

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. Found guilty decisions include absolute and conditional discharges. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably. Also, in some jurisdictions, the number of acquittals may be over-reported due to administrative practices. Stay/withdrawn includes cases stayed, withdrawn, dismissed and discharged at preliminary inquiry. Other decisions includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible, waived in province/territory, or waived out of province/territory. This category also includes mistrials, the court's acceptance of a special plea (e.g. autrefois acquit), cases which raised Charter arguments or cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial. In jurisdictions not providing superior court data (i.e., Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan), the other decision category includes charges having a committal for trial in superior court as the decision on the final appearance in provincial court. Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which account for approximately 20% of federal statute charges in that province) are not yet collected. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of adult court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 5

Convicted cases by type of sentence for the most serious offence in the case, Canada, 2006/2007

Offence category	Guilty cases number	Type of sentence for most serious offence							
		Prison		Conditional sentence ¹		Probation		Fine	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Total offences	242,988	83,043	34.2	9,878	4.1	105,415	43.4	73,513	30.3
Criminal Code total	214,163	75,460	35.2	8,008	3.7	96,967	45.3	60,218	28.1
Crimes against the person	48,329	15,111	31.3	2,581	5.3	35,126	72.7	4,160	8.6
Homicide	140	115	82.1	3	2.1	12	8.6	0	0.0
Attempted murder	43	30	69.8	1	2.3	7	16.3	1	2.3
Robbery	2,900	2,249	77.6	245	8.4	1,322	45.6	15	0.5
Sexual assault	1,519	753	49.6	244	16.1	999	65.8	52	3.4
Other sexual offences	722	448	62.0	100	13.9	483	66.9	12	1.7
Major assault	10,536	4,485	42.6	937	8.9	7,119	67.6	925	8.8
Common assault	21,837	3,519	16.1	661	3.0	16,953	77.6	2,227	10.2
Uttering threats	8,021	2,623	32.7	257	3.2	6,131	76.4	786	9.8
Criminal harassment	1,459	392	26.9	59	4.0	1,264	86.6	82	5.6
Other crimes against the person	1,152	497	43.1	74	6.4	836	72.6	60	5.2
Crimes against property	59,318	24,273	40.9	3,112	5.2	31,991	53.9	9,329	15.7
Theft	25,119	9,940	39.6	1,100	4.4	12,219	48.6	4,980	19.8
Break and enter	8,293	5,031	60.7	691	8.3	5,015	60.5	340	4.1
Fraud	10,001	3,580	35.8	870	8.7	6,030	60.3	1,207	12.1
Mischief	7,665	1,624	21.2	109	1.4	5,057	66.0	1,387	18.1
Possess stolen property	7,768	3,877	49.9	283	3.6	3,404	43.8	1,354	17.4
Other property crimes	472	221	46.8	59	12.5	266	56.4	61	12.9
Administration of justice	46,415	22,270	48.0	917	2.0	14,045	30.3	11,213	24.2
Fail to appear	2,646	1,136	42.9	50	1.9	587	22.2	774	29.3
Breach of probation	21,750	11,235	51.7	563	2.6	7,489	34.4	4,659	21.4
Unlawfully at large	1,969	1,579	80.2	24	1.2	305	15.5	170	8.6
Fail to comply with order	18,476	7,833	42.4	195	1.1	4,864	26.3	5,282	28.6
Other administration of justice	1,574	487	30.9	85	5.4	800	50.8	328	20.8
Other Criminal Code	19,608	7,030	35.9	626	3.2	9,676	49.3	4,495	22.9
Weapons	5,440	2,092	38.5	240	4.4	2,815	51.7	1,117	20.5
Prostitution	774	159	20.5	16	2.1	357	46.1	208	26.9
Disturbing the peace	1,344	182	13.5	4	0.3	629	46.8	484	36.0
Residual Criminal Code	12,050	4,597	38.1	366	3.0	5,875	48.8	2,686	22.3
Criminal Code traffic	40,493	6,776	16.7	772	1.9	6,129	15.1	31,021	76.6
Impaired driving	32,594	3,319	10.2	296	0.9	3,664	11.2	27,904	85.6
Other Criminal Code traffic	7,899	3,457	43.8	476	6.0	2,465	31.2	3,117	39.5
Other federal statute total	28,825	7,583	26.3	1,870	6.5	8,448	29.3	13,295	46.1
Drug possession	7,628	1,210	15.9	81	1.1	2,342	30.7	3,818	50.1
Drug trafficking	6,051	2,896	47.9	1,733	28.6	1,693	28.0	535	8.8
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act</i>	817	263	32.2	11	1.3	273	33.4	264	32.3
Residual federal statutes	14,329	3,214	22.4	45	0.3	4,140	28.9	8,678	60.6

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. In 2006/2007, conditional sentencing data were not available for Quebec.

Notes: The sentence types presented are not mutually exclusive and will not add to 100. Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (C.C.C. s.730(1)) or a suspended sentence (C.C.C. s.731(1)(a)). In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data as of 2006/2007 is estimated at 98% of adult court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 6

Cases in select provincial and superior courts by mean and median elapsed time, 2006/2007

Offence category	Total		Total		Provincial court		Provincial court		Superior court		Superior court	
			Mean	Median			Mean	Median			Mean	Median
	number	percent	days		number	percent	days		number	percent	days	
Elapsed time,¹ total cases	121,367	100.0	222	111	119,965	100	221	106	1,402	100.0	349	258
Crimes against the person	27,112	22.3	211	137	26,565	22.1	207	135	547	39.0	367	295
Crimes against property	30,540	25.2	275	106	30,378	25.3	274	106	162	11.6	460	261
Administration of justice	22,419	18.5	191	65	22,392	18.7	191	64	27	1.9	311	188
Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	8,524	7.0	211	120	8,406	7.0	210	118	118	8.4	315	236
<i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	19,606	16.2	195	99	19,551	16.3	195	98	55	3.9	340	323
Other federal statutes	13,166	10.8	224	121	12,673	10.6	221	120	493	35.2	302	221

1. Seven provinces and territories (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories).

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size. Mean elapsed time is measured from first to last court appearance. Superior court data are not available for Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Nunavut has a single level trial court. Prince Edward Island superior court data do not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance. As a result, data for Prince Edward Island have been removed from the analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 7

Cases in select provincial and superior courts by mean and median length of prison sentence, 2006/2007

Offence category	Total		Total		Provincial court		Provincial court		Superior court		Superior court	
			Mean	Median			Mean	Median			Mean	Median
	number	percent	days		number	percent	days		number	percent	days	
Total cases with prison¹	29,687	100.0	121	30	29,344	100.0	111	30	343	100.0	989	550
Crimes against the person	4,583	15.4	309	84	4,418	15.1	264	63	165	48.1	1,504	1,095
Crimes against property	10,090	34.0	103	34	10,043	34.2	102	33	47	13.7	352	180
Administration of justice	8,619	29.0	23	12	8,612	29.3	23	12	7	2.0	207	30
Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	2,172	7.3	95	30	2,139	7.3	87	30	33	9.6	573	360
<i>Criminal Code</i> traffic	2,127	7.2	105	30	2,110	7.2	101	30	17	5.0	523	450
Other federal statutes	2,096	7.1	244	75	2,022	6.9	230	66	74	21.6	611	270

1. Seven provinces and territories (i.e., Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories).

Notes: The median represents the mid-point of a group of values when all the values are sorted by size. Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminant. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recorded to 9,125 days (or 25 years) for the calculation of the average (mean) and median sentence lengths. Superior court data are not available for Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Nunavut has a single level trial court. Prince Edward Island superior court data do not include information on the number of appearances and elapsed time from first to last case appearance. As a result, data for Prince Edward Island have been removed from the analysis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 8

Number of cases heard in adult criminal court, ten provinces and territories, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

Offence category	2002/2003		2003/2004		2004/2005		2005/2006		2006/2007		Percentage change 2006 vs. 2002
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	%
Total offences	378,217	100.0	364,767	100.0	365,500	100.0	352,980	100.0	353,279	100.0	-6.6
Criminal Code total	327,839	86.7	320,390	87.8	322,877	88.3	311,497	88.2	310,439	87.9	-5.3
Crimes against the person	93,876	24.8	89,635	24.6	88,411	24.2	86,132	24.4	85,935	24.3	-8.5
Homicide	297	0.1	303	0.1	296	0.1	255	0.1	267	0.1	-10.1
Attempted murder	253	0.1	222	0.1	174	0.0	175	0.0	217	0.1	-14.2
Robbery	4,369	1.2	4,399	1.2	4,274	1.2	4,042	1.1	3,972	1.1	-9.1
Sexual assault	3,723	1.0	3,401	0.9	3,103	0.8	2,855	0.8	2,806	0.8	-24.6
Other sexual offences	1,808	0.5	1,739	0.5	1,752	0.5	1,393	0.4	1,374	0.4	-24.0
Major assault	20,268	5.4	19,736	5.4	18,745	5.1	18,269	5.2	17,975	5.1	-11.3
Common assault	41,283	10.9	38,796	10.6	38,820	10.6	38,059	10.8	38,392	10.9	-7.0
Uttering threats	16,672	4.4	15,974	4.4	16,067	4.4	15,912	4.5	15,570	4.4	-6.6
Criminal harassment	2,775	0.7	2,693	0.7	2,817	0.8	2,741	0.8	2,859	0.8	3.0
Other crimes against the person	2,428	0.6	2,372	0.7	2,363	0.6	2,431	0.7	2,503	0.7	3.1
Crimes against property	91,742	24.3	90,789	24.9	94,211	25.8	87,282	24.7	85,930	24.3	-6.3
Theft	36,128	9.6	35,889	9.8	38,153	10.4	35,726	10.1	35,728	10.1	-1.1
Break and enter	12,397	3.3	12,410	3.4	12,266	3.4	11,238	3.2	10,914	3.1	-12.0
Fraud	16,631	4.4	16,131	4.4	16,480	4.5	14,925	4.2	14,333	4.1	-13.8
Mischief	11,843	3.1	11,343	3.1	11,712	3.2	11,360	3.2	11,675	3.3	-1.4
Possess stolen property	13,868	3.7	13,981	3.8	14,622	4.0	13,182	3.7	12,570	3.6	-9.4
Other property crimes	875	0.2	1,035	0.3	978	0.3	851	0.2	710	0.2	-18.9
Administration of justice	57,147	15.1	57,615	15.8	58,218	15.9	58,082	16.5	60,853	17.2	6.5
Fail to appear	4,257	1.1	4,426	1.2	4,096	1.1	4,516	1.3	4,924	1.4	15.7
Breach of probation	23,906	6.3	23,928	6.6	25,142	6.9	24,853	7.0	25,585	7.2	7.0
Unlawfully at large	2,736	0.7	2,803	0.8	2,660	0.7	2,322	0.7	2,357	0.7	-13.9
Fail to comply with order	24,040	6.4	24,202	6.6	24,007	6.6	24,191	6.9	25,812	7.3	7.4
Other administration of justice	2,208	0.6	2,256	0.6	2,313	0.6	2,200	0.6	2,175	0.6	-1.5
Other Criminal Code	27,528	7.3	26,802	7.3	27,455	7.5	28,049	7.9	28,214	8.0	2.5
Weapons	7,357	1.9	7,450	2.0	7,696	2.1	8,005	2.3	8,257	2.3	12.2
Prostitution	2,210	0.6	1,965	0.5	2,130	0.6	1,820	0.5	1,945	0.6	-12.0
Disturbing the peace	2,541	0.7	2,398	0.7	2,404	0.7	2,214	0.6	2,073	0.6	-18.4
Residual Criminal Code	15,420	4.1	14,989	4.1	15,225	4.2	16,010	4.5	15,939	4.5	3.4
Criminal Code traffic	57,546	15.2	55,549	15.2	54,582	14.9	51,952	14.7	49,507	14.0	-14.0
Impaired driving	46,969	12.4	44,966	12.3	44,141	12.1	41,835	11.9	39,580	11.2	-15.7
Other Criminal Code traffic	10,577	2.8	10,583	2.9	10,441	2.9	10,117	2.9	9,927	2.8	-6.1
Other federal statute total	50,378	13.3	44,377	12.2	42,623	11.7	41,483	11.8	42,840	12.1	-15.0
Drug possession	15,843	4.2	12,036	3.3	12,509	3.4	12,762	3.6	13,478	3.8	-14.9
Drug trafficking	12,563	3.3	12,389	3.4	11,531	3.2	10,528	3.0	10,450	3.0	-16.8
Youth Criminal Justice Act/ Young Offenders Act	1,591	0.4	1,143	0.3	1,317	0.4	1,059	0.3	991	0.3	-37.7
Residual federal statutes	20,381	5.4	18,809	5.2	17,266	4.7	17,134	4.9	17,921	5.1	-12.1

Notes: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. This trend analysis table does not include data from Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data for five-year trend analysis (ten jurisdictions) is estimated at 90% of adult court caseload.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 9

Guilty cases by mean and median length of prison sentence, ten provinces and territories, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

Offence category	2002/2003		2003/2004		2004/2005		2005/2006		2006/2007	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
	days									
Total offences	124	30	123	30	128	30	124	30	124	30
Criminal Code total	120	30	118	30	122	30	117	30	117	30
Crimes against the person	254	60	261	60	266	70	252	60	253	70
Homicide	4,316	2,555	3,732	2,190	3,462	2,555	3,266	2,190	2,501	1,825
Attempted murder	1,218	875	1,561	1,320	1,975	1,460	1,687	1,328	2,263	1,877
Robbery	644	450	676	510	690	540	686	540	682	540
Sexual assault	504	360	490	360	467	300	502	360	472	360
Other sexual offences	468	360	528	365	482	360	455	360	526	360
Major assault	144	60	152	60	162	60	165	60	172	80
Common assault	49	30	43	30	49	30	48	30	53	30
Uttering threats	68	30	65	30	67	30	67	30	66	30
Criminal harassment	73	30	103	45	78	45	87	55	82	60
Other crimes against the person	432	180	437	180	459	270	415	240	397	180
Crimes against property	116	45	113	43	117	45	112	43	112	42
Theft	61	30	55	30	59	30	56	30	56	30
Break and enter	251	150	259	150	263	180	258	180	257	160
Fraud	106	45	101	40	114	60	108	45	112	46
Mischief	47	27	39	15	48	30	48	25	48	22
Possess stolen property	79	45	78	45	80	45	80	45	92	60
Other property crimes	244	120	163	60	202	90	218	120	240	120
Administration of justice	26	14	25	12	26	14	26	14	26	14
Fail to appear	14	4	12	1	12	2	16	5	16	5
Breach of probation	30	15	29	15	30	15	29	15	29	15
Unlawfully at large	38	30	38	28	37	26	37	30	36	30
Fail to comply with order	16	7	16	5	16	5	18	5	19	7
Other administration of justice	73	30	67	30	71	30	71	30	68	30
Other Criminal Code	133	30	132	30	142	44	136	33	143	44
Weapons	120	60	128	49	127	60	131	60	150	60
Prostitution	40	7	115	4	82	7	34	5	62	5
Disturbing the peace	21	5	14	2	14	3	14	2	18	7
Residual Criminal Code	148	30	141	30	156	45	147	37	147	36
Criminal Code traffic	81	30	86	30	93	30	100	30	100	30
Impaired driving	72	30	71	30	77	30	83	30	78	30
Other Criminal Code traffic	91	45	102	45	109	45	117	60	122	50
Other federal statute total	178	60	173	60	196	90	191	90	195	90
Drug possession	21	7	21	7	19	6	22	7	19	7
Drug trafficking	220	90	219	90	251	90	247	90	280	120
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	17	10	15	7	15	7	22	10	15	7
Residual federal statutes	201	90	183	90	216	120	209	150	200	120

Notes: Excludes cases where length of prison was not known, and cases where the length was specified as indeterminate. Cases sentenced to life imprisonment were recoded to 9,125 days (25 years) for the calculation of sentence length means. Time in custody prior to sentencing is taken into consideration when imposing a sentence. The length of time in custody prior to sentencing and the extent to which it influences the sanction imposed are not available from the survey. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. This trend analysis table does not include data from Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data for five year trend analysis (ten jurisdictions) is estimated at 90%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 10

Guilty cases by mean and median length of probation sentence, ten provinces and territories, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

Offence category	2002/2003		2003/2004		2004/2005		2005/2006		2006/2007	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
days										
Total offences	451	365	452	365	453	365	455	365	453	365
Criminal Code total	452	365	451	365	454	365	454	365	453	365
Crimes against the person	483	365	482	365	486	365	484	365	482	365
Homicide	802	730	760	730	902	1,095	718	730	829	730
Attempted murder	760	730	732	730	834	1,095	867	730	991	1,095
Robbery	651	730	674	730	682	730	687	730	679	730
Sexual assault	634	540	645	720	652	730	657	730	679	730
Other sexual offences	760	730	761	730	767	730	786	730	784	730
Major assault	507	365	500	365	516	365	518	365	516	365
Common assault	410	365	407	365	412	365	410	365	409	365
Uttering threats	506	365	507	365	503	365	501	365	499	365
Criminal harassment	640	720	629	545	621	545	626	545	602	545
Other crimes against the person	599	540	611	545	601	545	618	545	608	545
Crimes against property	448	365	447	365	448	365	448	365	447	365
Theft	402	365	405	365	406	365	407	365	403	365
Break and enter	555	540	551	540	559	540	560	540	559	540
Fraud	492	365	492	365	489	365	483	365	490	365
Mischief	384	360	382	365	386	365	393	365	396	365
Possess stolen property	426	365	425	365	433	365	434	365	429	365
Other property crimes	569	540	524	365	529	365	501	365	569	540
Administration of justice	393	365	391	365	392	365	395	365	390	365
Fail to appear	318	360	334	360	320	365	346	365	335	365
Breach of probation	399	365	397	365	407	365	409	365	404	365
Unlawfully at large	375	365	393	365	408	365	387	365	394	365
Fail to comply with order	382	360	376	360	364	365	366	365	364	365
Other administration of justice	446	365	442	365	440	365	472	365	457	365
Other Criminal Code	464	365	462	365	465	365	476	365	484	365
Weapons	469	365	479	365	486	365	488	365	491	365
Prostitution	354	360	367	360	355	365	367	365	350	365
Disturbing the peace	321	360	316	360	309	365	310	363	320	365
Residual Criminal Code	489	365	482	365	484	365	497	365	507	365
Criminal Code traffic	390	365	397	365	409	365	411	365	413	365
Impaired driving	383	360	391	365	403	365	402	365	400	365
Other Criminal Code traffic	404	365	407	365	421	365	424	365	434	365
Other federal statute total	434	365	457	365	452	365	458	365	456	365
Drug possession	282	270	301	360	306	365	308	365	318	365
Drug trafficking	416	365	415	365	422	365	432	365	439	365
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	303	360	311	360	293	360	347	365	328	365
Residual federal statutes	541	540	541	540	552	540	555	540	549	540

Notes: Excludes cases where length of probation was not known. Maximum probation term is 1,095 days. Probation totals include mandatory probation for cases given a conditional discharge (CCCs.730(1)) or a suspended sentence (CCC s.731(1)(a)). In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. This trend analysis table does not include data from Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data for five-year trend analysis (ten jurisdictions) is estimated at 90%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table 11

Guilty cases by mean and median fine amount, ten provinces and territories, 2002/2003 to 2006/2007

Offence category	2002/2003		2003/2004		2004/2005		2005/2006		2006/2007	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
dollars										
Total offences	747	500	784	500	758	500	827	500	759	500
Criminal Code total	579	600	656	600	565	600	599	600	588	600
Crimes against the person	407	300	391	300	412	300	415	300	432	300
Homicide	617	750	100	100	417	350	1,000	1,000	...	...
Attempted murder	500	500	...	...	3,400	3,400	...	...	35,410	35,410
Robbery	341	300	409	300	333	200	363	300	532	500
Sexual assault	670	500	819	500	637	500	642	500	662	500
Other sexual offences	732	500	439	400	880	800	405	500	456	500
Major assault	484	400	445	400	487	400	480	400	511	400
Common assault	394	300	381	300	411	350	419	350	418	300
Uttering threats	307	250	307	250	291	250	312	250	318	250
Criminal harassment	299	250	352	300	369	300	357	300	396	400
Other crimes against the person	490	300	588	300	488	300	438	300	464	300
Crimes against property	349	250	446	250	356	250	479	250	385	250
Theft	276	200	271	200	265	200	273	200	279	200
Break and enter	441	350	440	300	471	500	476	400	458	400
Fraud	481	250	1,189	250	477	250	1,394	250	767	250
Mischief	271	200	285	250	308	250	312	250	314	250
Possess stolen property	503	300	522	300	552	300	494	300	483	300
Other property crimes	459	334	489	400	504	300	516	400	595	500
Administration of justice	243	200	247	200	254	200	250	200	256	200
Fail to appear	197	150	200	150	212	150	216	200	208	150
Breach of probation	266	200	269	200	267	200	275	200	280	200
Unlawfully at large	331	250	315	250	313	250	379	300	395	300
Fail to comply with order	208	150	211	150	215	150	216	175	225	200
Other administration of justice	493	400	567	300	735	400	449	350	466	400
Other Criminal Code	750	250	1,620	250	449	250	484	250	478	250
Weapons	349	250	309	250	343	250	364	250	331	250
Prostitution	557	300	802	250	359	200	426	250	355	250
Disturbing the peace	264	200	260	200	267	200	264	200	273	250
Residual Criminal Code	1,046	250	2,529	250	541	250	585	300	597	300
Criminal Code traffic	770	700	773	700	780	700	789	700	796	750
Impaired driving	781	700	785	700	790	750	797	750	804	750
Other Criminal Code traffic	667	500	657	500	686	600	710	600	727	600
Other federal statute total	1,420	250	1,424	300	1,706	250	1,913	250	1,517	250
Drug possession	361	250	436	300	435	300	427	300	437	300
Drug trafficking	1,982	840	1,603	1,000	1,803	1,000	2,990	1,000	2,034	1,000
Youth Criminal Justice Act/Young Offenders Act	236	200	238	200	261	200	278	250	263	200
Residual federal statutes	1,909	200	1,764	250	2,346	200	2,581	200	1,978	200

... not applicable

Notes: Excludes cases where amount of fine was not known. In Quebec, most drug offences are recorded under residual federal statutes, resulting in an undercount of drug possession and drug trafficking cases and an overcount of residual federal statute cases. Amount of fine data are presented in current dollars. This trend analysis table does not include data from Manitoba, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Coverage for Adult Criminal Court Survey data for five-year trend analysis (ten jurisdictions) is estimated at 90%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Criminal Court Survey.

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Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2005/2006

by Laura Landry and Maire Sinha



Highlights

- The over 232,800 adults admitted to some form of custody in 2005/2006 represented a 4% increase from the previous year. The increase was driven by a 6% climb in the number of admissions to remand (custody for persons awaiting trial or sentencing) in provincial/territorial facilities, and a 4% increase in admissions to federal custody. The number of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody remained stable.
- Since 1996/1997, admissions to remand have grown steadily (+22%) while admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody have fallen (-28%).
- Compared to persons who were sentenced to provincial/territorial custody without being remanded, those who were remanded were more frequently admitted due to a violent offence, were more often under the age of 25 and were more frequently single and never married.
- With the exception of conditional sentences which decreased 2%, admissions to all types of community supervision programs increased in 2005/2006. In total, there were 109,539 adult offenders admitted to community supervision programs that year. These include probation (+2%), provincial parole (+6%) and releases from federal custody (i.e., federal conditional releases, day parole, full parole, statutory releases) (+4%).
- Aboriginal people continued to have high levels of representation in custody. According to the 2006 Census, Aboriginal people represented 4% of the adult population in Canada, yet they accounted for 24% of adult admissions to provincial/territorial custody, 19% of admissions to remand and 18% of admissions to federal custody.
- Overall, expenditures on adult correctional services in 2005/2006 totaled almost \$3 billion, up 2% from the previous year.



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Introduction

The federal government and the provincial and territorial governments share the administration of correctional services in Canada. These services include custody as well as community services. Which adult offenders are placed in the federal system and which are placed in the provincial/territorial system depends on decisions taken by the judiciary.

Adult offenders sentenced to custody terms of two years or more fall under the federal penitentiary system. Federal correctional services are provided by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), an agency of Public Safety Canada. The CSC is responsible for the administration of sentences and the supervision of offenders. Decisions to grant, deny, cancel, terminate or revoke parole, however, are made by the National Parole Board (NPB), which is also an agency of Public Safety Canada. The NPB is responsible for offenders serving a federal custodial sentence and for offenders serving a provincial/territorial sentence in jurisdictions that do not have their own parole boards, meaning all jurisdictions except Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia (up until April 1, 2007).¹

Sentences to custody of less than two years and community-based sanctions, such as probation and conditional sentences, are the responsibility of the provinces and territories. In addition, provinces and territories are responsible for adults who are ordered to be held in custody before or during their trial (i.e., remand, or pre-trial detention) and other forms of temporary detention (e.g., immigration holds). As mentioned above, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia (until April 1, 2007) operate their own provincial parole boards. These boards are authorized to grant releases to offenders serving a sentence of less than two years in a prison in their jurisdiction. Although the federal and provincial/territorial governments are responsible for different populations, they both work toward the same goals: the protection of society, the rehabilitation of offenders and the safe and successful integration of offenders into communities.

This *Juristat* provides information on the adult correctional system, including trends in the supervision of adults in custody and in the community, characteristics of offenders, and the operating cost of correctional services. The data in this *Juristat* are primarily drawn from the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey administered by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Admission and release data for seven jurisdictions are taken from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) that is being implemented and which will eventually replace the ACS survey (see Methodology section for more information).

Admissions to remand continued to grow in 2005/2006

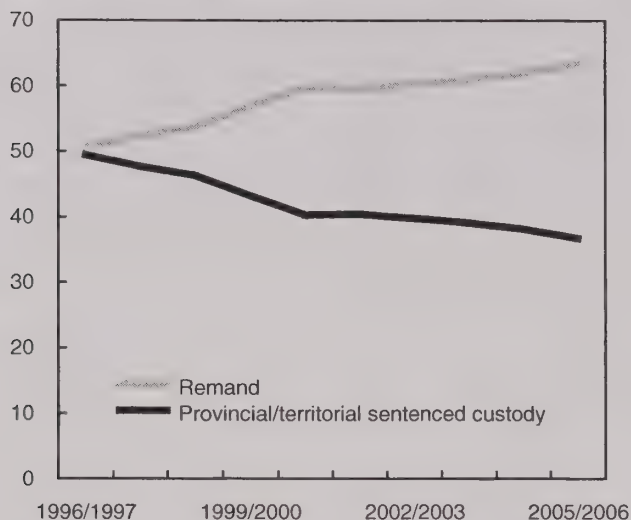
In 2005/2006, adult correctional services in Canada processed 232,810 admissions to custody and 109,539 intakes into community supervision. Together, this represented a 3% increase from the previous year.

While the total number of admissions to adult corrections increased only slightly since 1996/1997 (+1%), there has been an extensive shift in the composition of admissions, notably in provincial/territorial custody. A decade ago, adults remanded to custody to await further court appearances (i.e., not yet convicted and/or sentenced) and adults admitted to serve a sentence represented about equal proportions of all admissions to provincial/territorial custody. After ten years of growth in remand and declines in sentenced custody, remanded admissions in 2005/2006 represented the majority (63%) of admissions to provincial/territorial custody² (Chart 1). Based on data from ten jurisdictions, the number of admissions to remand was 22% higher in 2005/2006 than in 1996/1997, while admissions to provincial and territorial sentenced custody have declined almost 28% compared to 1996/1997 (Table 2).

Chart 1

Remand accounts for a growing proportion of admissions to provincial/territorial custody, 1996/1997 to 2005/2006

percentage of adults admitted to provincial/territorial custody
(excluding temporary detention)



Note: Due to missing data for some years, data exclude Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

The growing number of admissions to remand continued in 2005/2006. Compared to the previous year, the number of admissions to remand increased 6%, whereas the number of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody remained relatively stable, declining by less than 1% (Table 1). Nevertheless, not all jurisdictions followed this pattern in remand and sentenced admissions. Compared to the previous year, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia experienced decreases in remand admissions in 2005/2006, while seven jurisdictions reported increases in the number of sentenced admissions (Table 3). At the federal level, admissions to sentenced custody increased by 4%.

With the exception of conditional sentences, admissions to all types of community supervision programs increased in 2005/2006 (Table 1). These include probation, provincial parole, conditional sentences, and releases from custody authorized by the Correctional Service of Canada (i.e., day and full parole for federal and provincial/territorial offenders and statutory release of federal offenders).³

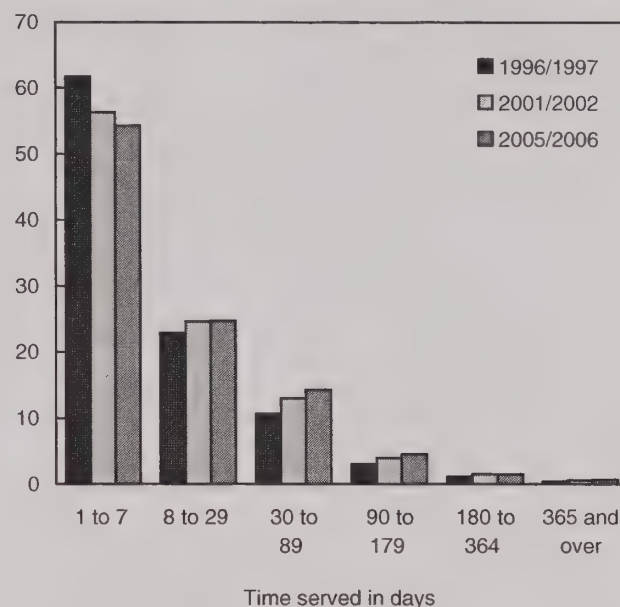
Accused are spending more time in remand custody

Along with the growth in remand admissions, there has been a general trend towards longer periods of remand custody over the last decade. While most remanded adults continued to spend one week or less in remand custody, this proportion has steadily dropped from 62% of all remanded accused in 1996/1997 to 54% in 2005/2006 (Chart 2). During this same time period, the proportion of remanded adults who spent three or more months in detention increased from 4% to 7%. As a result of an increase in admissions to remand, decreases in admissions to sentenced custody and longer stays in remand, the number of adults in remand on any given day in Canada in 2005/2006 surpassed the number in sentenced custody for a second year in a row (Statistics Canada, 2007) (Chart 3).

Chart 2

Length of time served in remand increasing,^{1,2,3} 1996/1997, 2001/2002 and 2005/2006

proportion of remand releases (percentage)



1. 'Time served' calculations exclude releases from remand for which length of time served is unknown. Prior to 1998/1999, 'Time served' excluded lengths of two years or more.
2. Number of days represented in the 'Time served' categories has changed slightly over the years.
3. To allow year-over-year comparisons, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from the totals due to missing data in some years.

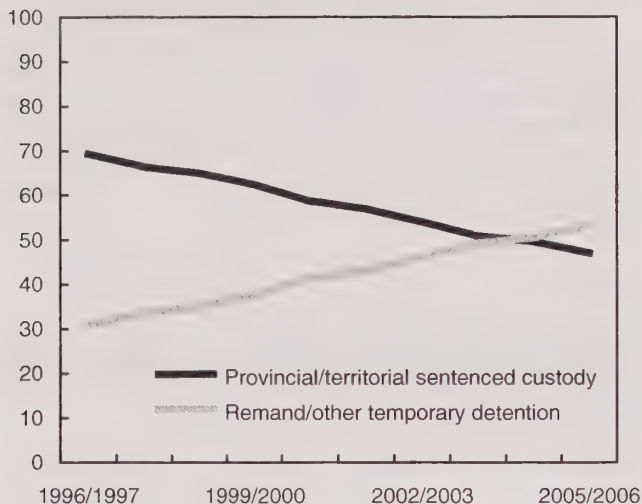
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Chart 3

Individuals in non-sentenced custody, such as remand or other temporary detention, account for a growing proportion of all adults in custody, 1996/1997 to 2005/2006

percentage



Note: To allow year-over-year comparisons, other temporary detention data from Manitoba and British Columbia have been excluded from the totals due to missing data for some years.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Key Indicators Report.

Among the nine jurisdictions that consistently reported data,⁴ most have experienced an increase in the lengths of remand custody, particularly Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. In these provinces, about three-quarters or more of remanded adults in 1996/1997 spent 1 to 7 days in custody. This proportion dropped to half of remand releases in 2005/2006 (Table 4).

Quebec reported the shortest periods of remand. In 2005/2006, 70% of all remanded adults in Quebec were held for a week or less and 13% were held longer than one month (Table 4). This contrasts sharply with lengths of remand in Newfoundland and Labrador and the Northwest Territories, the jurisdictions with the longest periods of remand. In 2005/2006, 16% of remanded adults in Newfoundland and Labrador and 17% in the Northwest Territories were held for a week or less. About half of remanded adults in these two jurisdictions were kept over one month (49% and 53%, respectively).^{5,6}

Legislative changes and longer court case processing time among possible factors related to shift in custodial supervision

Changes in laws governing sentencing and remand, factors related to the accused, and longer court case processing times may help explain the growth in remand and the decrease in sentenced custody admissions.

In the late 1990s, an amendment to the *Criminal Code* created conditional sentences as a sentencing option, allowing for a term of imprisonment to be served in the community. With the steady increase in the number of conditional sentences in the seven years following implementation in 1996, it is likely that this sentencing option has contributed to the decrease in levels of sentenced custody.

A second legislative change expanded the grounds for sending an accused to remand. The expansion of section 515 (10) of the *Criminal Code* in 1997 allowed the use of remand for just grounds not already identified in the provision and where "the detention is necessary in order to maintain the confidence in the administration of justice having regard to all the circumstances". An additional amendment was introduced in 1999 to ensure that the safety concerns of victims and witnesses are taken into consideration in the decisions concerning remand. Combined, these amendments, which expanded the circumstances under which remand could be applied, may have contributed to expanding the remand population.

Non-compliance with court orders, as well as the type of offence being charged can play a role in whether an accused is sent to remand or released into the community. Failing to comply with bail conditions can result in the accused returning to court and being remanded to custody. Over the past decade, police-reported data show a 40% increase in the rate of bail order violations (Silver, 2007). Violating bail is often a result of non-compliance with the conditions imposed by the court, such as not reporting to authorities, not remaining in the jurisdiction, communicating with a victim or witness, or possessing a weapon. While it is only possible to examine admissions to remand by bail violations for a small number of jurisdictions reporting to the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS), there is some indication that bail violations may help to partly explain the increase in remand. For example, in Saskatchewan, the jurisdiction that has consistently reported to the ICSS for the longest period of time, there has been an overall increase in admissions to remand for bail violations since 1999/2000 (+23%).

Accused charged with more serious offences tend to be more often remanded to custody than those charged with less serious offences (Gilmour, 1999). Police-reported data show that there has been an increase in incidents of serious crimes, albeit low volume offences, over the last decade. In particular, increases in aggravated assault with a weapon (+35%), aggravated assault causing bodily harm (+9%) and kidnapping/forcible confinement (+108%)⁷ may have somewhat contributed to the increase in remand admissions.

Not only does the type of crime have an impact on the number of admissions to remand, but it may also lengthen the time spent in remand, since more serious crimes can take longer to process in court. In 2005/2006, the median elapsed time to process a court case for crimes against the person (i.e., violent crime) was 153 days, compared to a median time of 107 days for crimes against property (Statistics Canada, 2007). Further, increases in the median court case processing time have been recorded for all crimes.

Remanded adults more often charged with violent crimes than inmates sentenced to custody without remand

The characteristics of remanded and provincially/territorially sentenced custody inmates differ in important ways. With the Integrated Correctional Services Survey, it is possible to examine the characteristics that differentiate accused who received remand at some point in their involvement with corrections from those inmates in sentenced custody who were never remanded to custody (i.e., they were previously released on supervised bail or on their own recognizance while awaiting court appearances).^{8,9} Data are available for five jurisdictions: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. The reader is cautioned that these data are not representative at the national level.

Among the reporting jurisdictions, remanded adults were more likely to be charged with a violent crime (40%), compared to non-remanded inmates (16%) (Table 5). This is not surprising given that the *Criminal Code* (s. 515 (10b)) specifies protection of the public, victims or witnesses as grounds for denying bail and holding an accused in remand. Traffic offences and non-*Criminal Code* offences,¹⁰ such as federal statute offences and provincial/territorial offences, were the most common offences among inmates who were never remanded (20% and 21%).

Remanded inmates are generally younger than sentenced inmates

Consistent with males' overrepresentation as offenders, among both remanded and non-remanded inmate population, approximately nine in ten inmates were men (Table 5). The similarity in the two groups also extends to their employment status. Among the five jurisdictions, both remanded and non-remanded inmates reported unemployment rates (43% and 44%, respectively) considerably higher than the national unemployment rate (6.3%).^{11,12} It has been suggested that unemployment is a risk factor for criminal activity, particularly property crime (Gannon et al., 2005).

However, there were key differences in demographic characteristics between persons remanded to custody and sentenced inmates who were never remanded. The remanded population was generally younger than the sentenced population that was released before trial and sentencing. In particular, 29% of remanded inmates were below the age of 25 years, compared to 20% of sentenced inmates who were never remanded (Table 5).

A larger proportion of remanded adults was also single and never married (61% versus 53% of non-remanded inmates). It has been shown in previous research that the courts can view attached individuals (married or having family responsibilities) as less of a flight risk and are therefore more likely to grant them bail (Ozanne et al, 1980; Morgan and Henderson, 1998). In addition, remanded offenders had slightly lower levels of educational attainment. Forty-three percent of offenders remanded to custody had graduated high school, while 48% of non-remanded offenders had obtained a high school diploma.

There was also a slight difference in the Aboriginal status of remanded and non-remanded inmates. One in six non-remanded inmates was an Aboriginal person, compared to one in eight remanded inmates.

Remanded population in Saskatchewan had more assessed needs than non-remanded population

When an individual is involved in correctional services, risk and needs assessment tools are often used to guide treatment while under correctional supervision as well as to assess the risk of future offending. The Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) currently receives data on the needs of offenders from Saskatchewan only. Data are collected for assessed offenders on six needs: attitude, criminal peers/companions (social interactions), drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse), employment, family/marital relationships, and emotional stability of the individual (personal/emotional).

Remanded inmates in Saskatchewan showed a greater number of assessed needs than non-remanded inmates. In particular, 41% of remanded inmates indicated that they had five to six needs, compared to 29% of non-remanded sentenced inmates (Table 5). For all six needs, the proportion of remanded inmates with a need was higher than the rate identified for non-remanded inmates. For both populations, the most commonly identified need was substance abuse.

Despite the greater needs among the remand population, remand inmates may not have access to or may not participate in programming. It has been argued that inmates on remand have less access to activities, such as recreation, work and rehabilitative programs and services (The John Howard Society of Ontario, 2002; Ombudsman Saskatchewan, 2002).

Shorter sentence lengths over the last decade

The length of sentenced custody has dropped in the last decade, particularly for the shortest sentence lengths. According to the Adult Correctional Services Survey, sentences of less than eight days accounted for 27% of all sentences in 2005/2006, compared to 14% of sentences in 1996/1997. Furthermore, lengthy periods of provincial/territorial sentenced custody have dropped in prevalence. The proportion of provincial/territorial offenders admitted for three or more months has decreased from 37% to 27% over the past decade.

At sentencing, the judge may consider time served in remand custody as part of the sentence already served. Possible consequences of crediting pre-sentence custody are a reduction in the number of offenders admitted to sentenced custody, as well as a reduction in the average count of offenders in sentenced custody because of shorter sentence lengths.

Federal institutions are also reporting a decrease in sentence lengths. While sentences under 3 years remain the most common federal sentence length, they have grown from 35% of all admissions in 1996/1997 to 55% in 2005/2006.

Admissions to community supervision

Western provinces drive decrease in conditional sentences

The vast majority of all admissions to community supervision (93%) are the responsibility of the provinces and territories, while admissions to full parole, day parole and statutory release fall under the responsibility of the Correctional Service of Canada (7%).

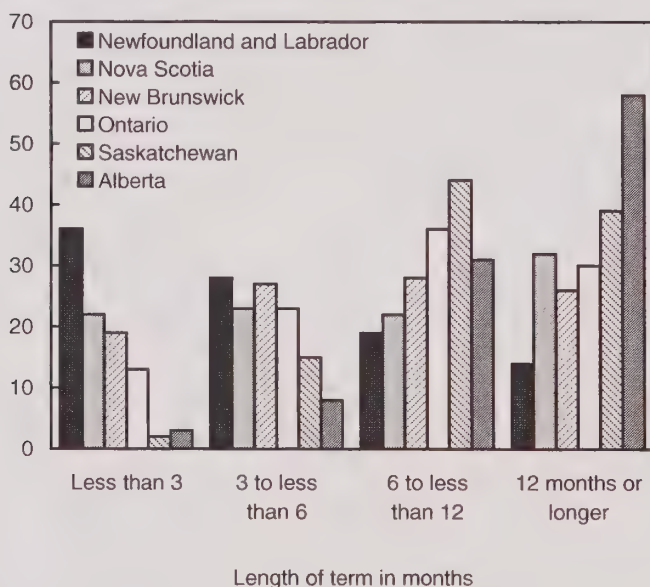
Similar to the upward trend in admissions to custodial supervision, there was a 2% growth in total admissions to community supervision in 2005/2006. While nearly all types of community supervision showed slight increases, admissions for conditional sentences decreased 2% (Table 1). This decline was primarily fueled by considerable decreases in Alberta (-10%) and British Columbia (-8%) (Table 6). The overall drop in conditional sentences contrasts with the long-term upward trend. Admissions to conditional sentences increased steadily after their implementation in the late 1990s and were 25% higher in 2005/2006 compared to 1997/1998, the first year that complete data are available.

Based on data from the six jurisdictions that report community supervision data to the Integrated Correctional Services Survey,¹³ western provinces were generally managing conditional sentence offenders for longer periods of time than were eastern provinces. More than half of conditional sentences in Alberta were for 12 or more months (58%), compared to 30% in Ontario, and 14% in Newfoundland and Labrador (Chart 4).

Chart 4

Lengths of conditional sentences are highest in the West, 2005/2006

percentage of conditional sentence admissions



Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Probation intakes remain steady, while provincial parole drops

Probation continues to drive the overall trend in community admissions, as it represents three-quarters of all admissions reported to the Adult Correctional Services Survey. In 2005/2006, these probation intakes were most often for violent offences (41%), followed by property offences (28%) and other *Criminal Code* offences (20%) (Table 7). The majority of probationers (41%) spent 12 months on probation. An additional 17% were given a probation order of 2 years or more, 14% received 6 months and 9% received 18 months. These patterns differ little compared to previous years. Administrators in the provinces and territories are managing about the same number of probation admissions as a decade ago. However, they have reported 61% fewer intakes for provincial parole (Table 2). The change in the number of parole admissions may reflect changes in the number of applications for parole and trends in granting parole (Gannon, et al., 2005).

Characteristics of offenders admitted to correctional services

Women account for a small proportion of admissions to corrections

Female offenders, who represent a minority of offenders admitted to correctional services, account for larger proportions of those serving probation and conditional sentences than sentenced custody. Data from all provinces and territories, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, showed that in 2005/2006, women comprised 18% of all probation intakes and 17% of conditional sentence intakes. In comparison, they represented 6% of admissions to sentenced federal custody, 11% of admissions to sentenced provincial/territorial custody, and 12% of admissions to remand (Table 8). Previous research has shown that women are less likely to be sentenced to custody, regardless of the seriousness of the offence (Kong and Au Coin, 2008). This may be partly explained by the fact that women tend to have fewer number of charges and shorter criminal histories compared to men (Kong and Au Coin, 2008).

Some provincial/territorial systems reported substantially lower representation of females in sentenced custody than the Canadian total of 11%, notably Nunavut at 2% and Newfoundland and Labrador at 4% (Table 8). Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province to report a notable drop in the proportion of women admitted to sentenced custody over the last ten years (from 7% in 1996/1997 to 4% of all admissions in 2005/2006).¹⁴ The remaining provinces saw little change or witnessed increases in female representation among sentenced custody admissions.

Aboriginal peoples continue to be highly represented in admissions to corrections

As has been the case historically, Aboriginal people had higher levels of representation in corrections compared to their 4% representation in the Canadian adult population.¹⁵ Aboriginal people were highly represented in admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody (24%) and conditional sentences (20%) (Table 8). They also represented 19% of admissions to remand, 18% of federal custodial sentences and 19% of probation intakes.

In the twelve reporting provinces and territories (excludes Prince Edward Island), Aboriginal offenders were highly represented in sentenced custody. In Quebec, the representation of Aboriginal offenders in prison was closest to their representation in the general population (3% versus 2%), while western provinces were most likely to have sentenced custody admission rates for Aboriginal offenders substantially higher than their populations, notably Saskatchewan (79% versus 15%) and Manitoba (71% versus 16%).

According to the 2006 Census, the number of individuals who self-identified as Aboriginal people increased 45% over the last decade and this growth has occurred across all provinces. Over this same period, some provinces have witnessed an increased representation of Aboriginal people among those admitted to sentenced custody. Such an increase was most notable in Manitoba where Aboriginal people accounted for 71% of sentenced admissions in 2005/2006, up from 58% in 1996/1997.

Non-violent offenders represent majority of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody¹⁶

Unlike federal custody where half of all admissions are related to violent crimes, most offenders who enter into provincial/territorial sentenced custody have been convicted of a non-violent offence (Table 9).¹⁷ The exceptions are Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, where violent crime was the most common offence upon admission. Admissions to sentenced custody for other *Criminal Code* offences (such as bail violations, counterfeiting currency and kidnapping) accounted for the highest proportion of sentenced admissions in over half of the jurisdictions.

Adult correctional service operational expenditures

According to the Adult Correctional Service Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey, expenditures on adult correctional services in 2005/2006 totaled almost \$3 billion. At both the federal and provincial/territorial levels, the vast majority of expenditures were incurred for custodial services (Table 12). Correctional services recorded a 2% increase in constant dollar expenditures between 2004/2005 and 2005/2006.

On average, spending per inmate in provincial and territorial custody was \$143 per day in 2005/2006. After adjusting for the effects of inflation, the average daily inmate expenditure for provincial/territorial inmates has decreased 6% since peaking in 2002/2003 (Table 10). While the overall expenditures on custodial services is higher than community supervision, the amount spent on providing community supervision services has shown significant increases. In particular, the overall operating expenditures for community services in 2005/2006 were 13% higher than in 2001/2002 (Table 11).

At the federal level, the average daily expenditure related to housing an inmate in 2005/2006 was \$260. Based on the constant dollar amount, average daily spending on federal inmates in 2005/2006 (\$204) was modestly lower than the peak observed in 2004/2005 (\$208). However, it remained 44% higher than a decade earlier (Table 13).

The reader is cautioned against comparing the expenditures incurred for provincial/territorial custody and federal custody. The federal average daily inmate expenditures include expenditures associated with the operations of the institution, including salaries. The average daily inmate expenditures for provincial/territorial corrections, on the other hand, reflect only operating expenditures associated with custodial services and exclude spending associated with operating the institution, such as salaries.

Correctional facilities

In 2005/2006, there were 192 correctional facilities across Canada, including 76 facilities under federal jurisdiction and 116 facilities under provincial/territorial jurisdiction. In the federal system in 2005/2006, 18 federal community correctional centres were in operation at year end with a capacity of 516 inmates, along with 58 federal institutions with 14,131 spaces. These spaces represented approximately 40% of total institutional capacity in Canada in 2005/2006. Since 2001/2002, total federal custodial capacity has increased 3%.¹

A total operational capacity of 23,637 spaces were reported in 116 provincial and territorial facilities of which 100 were secure institutions and the remaining 16 were minimum (open) security institutions in 2005/2006. This represents approximately 60% of total institutional capacity in Canada. Since 2001/2002, total reported capacity of the provincial/territorial custodial correctional system has increased 1%. This excludes Prince Edward Island which was unable to report data in 2005/2006.

1. The method for determining bed space capacity in some jurisdictions has changed and therefore, comparison to years prior to 2000/2001 should be made with caution.

Definitions

Adults: Persons aged 18 years of age or older at the time of admission.

Community supervision: Supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence and community release (parole or statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: Disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order. The court may also direct the offender to comply with conditions of a probation order in addition to a fine or a sentence of custody.

Conditional sentence: Disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Community release: Supervision of offenders on day parole, full parole, statutory release and long term supervision orders. The National Parole Board (NPB) has the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole, to terminate or revoke statutory release, detain certain offenders past their statutory release date, and grant unescorted temporary absences.

Parole: Programs of conditional release from custody into the community under the authority of parole boards.

Provincial parole: Programs of conditional release managed by administrative tribunals in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia (until April 1, 2007) that have the authority to grant, deny, terminate or revoke parole in their jurisdiction.

Day parole: Release of an offender into the community granted by the National Parole Board or a provincial parole board to prepare the offender for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require the offender to return to a penitentiary, a community-based residential facility or a provincial correctional facility each night. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for day parole six months prior to their full parole eligibility date or after having served one-sixth of their sentence for cases that meet accelerated parole review criteria.

Full parole: Release of an offender into the community to serve part of their prison sentence. Offenders are under supervision by a parole officer and are required to abide by conditions designed to reduce the risk of re-offending and to foster re-integration into the community. Federal offenders serving determinate sentences are eligible to apply for parole after serving one third of their sentence or seven years after admission, whichever is less.

Statutory release: Release of federal offenders into the community after serving two thirds of their sentence, unless they are detained by the National Parole Board or they waive statutory release.

Long-term supervision order: Disposition that came into effect in Canada on August 1, 1997, in which the court can order that the offender be supervised in the community for a period not exceeding 10 years after having served a custody sentence of two years or more.

Custodial supervision/custody: Detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced custody: Detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.

Non-sentenced custody:

- 1) **Remand:** Court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.
- 2) **Temporary detention:** Incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Most serious offence:

Most serious offence (MSO) – This measure is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which classifies incidents, according to the most serious offence in the incident. The Adult Correctional Services Survey uses the same rule in determining the most serious offence for which an offender is sentenced. For example, if an offender is sentenced for more than one offence, the most serious offence rule states that where several offences occur in one incident, only the most serious offence, based on penalties in the *Criminal Code* of Canada, is recorded.

Most serious disposition (MSD) – If an offender receives more than one conviction, the offence with the longest sentence given to the offender is the one recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Multiple charge (MC) – If an offender is charged with, and found guilty of more than one offence, all charges will be recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Needs:

Attitude - degree to which an individual accepts responsibility for the offence and shows a willingness to change.

Peers/companions (social interaction) - level of problems associated with some or all of the individual's peers.

Drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse) - degree to which use of alcohol and/or drugs is associated with problems.

Employment - employment status (employed vs. unemployed) and employment history.

Family/marital relationships (marital/family) - presence or absence of serious problems in relationships.

Emotional stability of offender (personal/emotional) - whether or not emotional instability exists and the degree to which this is related to serious problems.

Methodology

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on adult correctional services in Canada through three surveys: the Adult Correctional Services Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey, the Adult Correctional Services (ACS) Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) which is currently being implemented and is intended to eventually replace the Adult Correctional Services Survey. The ICSS collects person-level descriptive data and characteristics information on adult offenders. Survey coverage for 2005/2006 includes the following jurisdictions which reported both custody and community admissions and releases data to the ICSS: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and the Correctional Services Canada (CSC). In addition, Alberta reported community admissions and releases. The jurisdictions

not yet reporting to the ICSS continue to participate in the ACS Survey which collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics information on adults (18 years and over) under some form of provincial or territorial correctional supervision.

Admissions are collected when an offender enters an institution or community supervision program, and describe and measure the case-flow in correctional agencies over time. While aggregate admissions include all persons passing through the correctional system, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals in the correctional system. The same person can be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g., from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year.

Data relating to operating expenditures and personnel are collected through the REP Survey. Data for all three surveys are provided by the various provincial, territorial and federal ministries, departments and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. As a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction. These surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis.

Data on the average counts of adults and youths in the correctional system were released in November 2007 (Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. November 21, 2007. "Adult and youth correctional services: Key indicators" *The Daily*.) Data in that release were collected by the Corrections Key Indicator Report (CKIR) for Adults and Young Offenders.

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Endnotes

1. On April 1, 2007, The Board of Parole for the province of British Columbia transferred its responsibilities for parole to the National Parole Board.
2. Total admissions exclude other temporary detention.
3. Warrant of expiry releases and other types of releases are not included. Warrant of expiry releases mean releases on the day on which the sentence expires.
4. Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut did not report data for 1996/1997, while Prince Edward Island did not report data for 2005/2006.
5. Data on remand by offence type are available for jurisdictions that report custody information to the Integrated Correctional Services Survey. As a reporting jurisdiction, Newfoundland and Labrador showed longer remand lengths for both violent and property crimes. For instance, 12% of violent remanded inmates and 9% of property remanded inmates were held for a week or less.
6. In Newfoundland and Labrador, remand admission data exclude remands involving short periods of incarceration in police custody. This may partly explain the longer periods of remand observed in this province.
7. Silver, W. 2007.

8. The remand group includes persons who were in remand at least once during their involvement with corrections. The sentenced group with no remand includes persons who were never remanded during their involvement with corrections but whose involvement included sentenced custody.
9. This survey represents 74% of the national volume of admissions to custody
10. This offence category excludes drug offences and includes unknown offences.
11. National unemployment rate for 2006. Statistics Canada, CANSIM, tables 282-0002 and 282-0022 and Catalogue no. 71F0004XCB.
12. Information is gathered at the time of admission and does not take into account the accused employment status at the time of the offence.
13. The six provinces include Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.
14. Newfoundland and Labrador changed data capturing system during this time period.
15. Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of the Population.
16. When there is more than one offence leading to incarceration, only data related to the most serious offence in the case is recorded (except in Alberta, which uses multiple charge data to record all offences, and British Columbia which uses the most serious disposition methodology). The following jurisdictional analysis includes only those jurisdictions employing the most serious offence methodology.
17. While most provinces report the most serious offence (MSO), Alberta reports multiple charges (MC) and British Columbia records the most serious disposition (MSD).

Table 1

Composition of admissions to the adult correctional population, 2004/2005 to 2005/2006

Correctional services	2004/2005 ¹		2005/2006		Percentage change from 2004/2005
	number	percentage of total	number	percentage of total	percentage
Custodial supervision					
Provincial/territorial sentenced custody	77,868 ^r	23.4	77,630	22.7	-0.3
Remand	124,214 ^r	37.4	131,375	38.4	5.8
Other temporary detention, ² provincial/territorial	14,391 ^r	4.3	15,520	4.5	7.8
Total provincial/territorial custody	216,473 ^r	65.2	224,525	65.6	3.7
Federal custody, sentenced	7,971 ^r	2.4	8,285	2.4	3.9
Total custodial supervision	224,444^r	67.6	232,810	68.0	3.7
Community supervision					
Probation	79,652	24.0	81,430	23.8	2.2
Provincial parole	1,762	0.5	1,875	0.5	6.4
Conditional sentences	18,890	5.7	18,580	5.4	-1.6
Total provincial/territorial community supervision	100,304 ^r	30.2	101,885	29.8	1.6
Community releases (CSC) ³	7,328 ^r	2.2	7,654	2.2	4.4
Total community supervision	107,632^r	32.4	109,539	32.0	1.8
Total correctional services⁴	332,076^r	100.0	342,349	100.0	3.1

^r revised

1. Some 2004/2005 Integrated Correctional Services Survey data have been revised.

2. Due to a system change, data from British Columbia for the category 'other temporary detention' is not available as of April 1, 2005. Therefore, comparisons with the previous years should be made with caution.

3. This category represents movement from federal custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes the Correctional Service of Canada.

4. Due to missing data, total correctional services exclude Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories to allow for national comparisons between 2004/2005 and 2005/2006.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 2

Composition of the adult correctional population, admissions, 1996/1997, 2001/2002 and 2005/2006

Correctional services	1996/1997			2001/2002			2005/2006			From 2001/2002 to 2005/2006	From 1996/1997 to 2005/2006
	Admis- sions	Adjusted admis- sions ¹	% of total ¹	Admis- sions	Adjusted admis- sions ¹	% of total ¹	Admis- sions	Adjusted admis- sions ¹	% of total ¹	% change in adjusted admissions	
	number		%	number		%	number		%		
Custodial supervision											
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	108,003	107,136	32.0	83,155	81,726	24.6	78,081	77,394	22.8	-5.3	-27.8
Remand ²	107,911	107,783	32.2	120,512	119,843	36.1	131,620	131,095	38.6	9.4	21.6
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	12,468	12,468	3.7	26,197	12,822	3.9	15,521	15,520	4.6	21.0	24.5
Total provincial/territorial custody	228,382	227,387	68.0	229,864	214,391	64.6	225,222	224,009	66.0	4.5	-1.5
Federal custody, sentenced	7,422	7,422	2.2	7,381	7,381	2.2	8,285	8,285	2.4	12.2	11.6
Total custodial supervision	235,804	234,809	70.2	237,245	221,772	66.8	233,507	232,294	68.5	4.7	-1.1
Community supervision											
Probation	80,599	79,908	23.9	84,549	83,185	25.1	81,430	80,330	23.7	-3.4	0.5
Provincial parole	4,847	4,847	1.4	2,301	2,301	0.7	1,875	1,875	0.6	-18.5	-61.3
Conditional sentences	7,673	7,669	...	18,604	17,600	5.3	18,580	17,133	5.0	-2.7	...
Total provincial community supervision	93,119	92,424	27.6	105,454	103,086	31.0	101,885	99,338	29.3	-3.6	7.5
Community releases (CSC ³)	6,987	7,389	2.2	7,162	7,162	2.2	7,654	7,654	2.3	6.9	3.6
Total community supervision	100,106	99,813	29.8	112,616	110,248	33.2	109,539	106,992	31.5	-3.0	7.2
Total correctional services	335,910	334,622	100.0	349,861	332,020	100.0	343,046	339,286	100.0	2.2	1.4

... not applicable

1. Because of missing data for some years, all data from Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories and Nunavut and other temporary detention data from British Columbia and conditional sentences from Manitoba, have been excluded from "Adjusted admissions" in order to make comparisons between years. The percentages of total statistics are based upon adjusted admissions.

2. Figures for remand may include admissions for other temporary detention.

3. This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes the Correctional Service of Canada.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 3

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory, 2001/2002 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction and year	Non-sentenced admissions									
	Sentenced admissions		Remand ¹		Temporary/ other detention		Total		Total	
	number	percentage change	number	percentage change	number	percentage change	number	percentage change	number	percentage change
Newfoundland and Labrador²										
2001/2002	1,235 ^r	...	422	...	93	...	515	...	1,750	...
2002/2003	1,148 ^r	-7.0	427 ^r	1.2	100 ^r	7.5	527	2.3	1,675 ^r	-4.3
2003/2004	1,188 ^r	3.5	447 ^r	4.7	112 ^r	12.0	559 ^r	6.1	1,747 ^r	4.3
2004/2005	1,074 ^r	-9.6	488 ^r	9.2	95 ^r	-15.2	583 ^r	4.3	1,657 ^r	-5.2
2005/2006	1,016	-5.4	433	-11.3	84	-11.6	517	-11.3	1,533	-7.5
Prince Edward Island										
2001/2002	650	...	178	...	..	...	178	...	828	...
2002/2003	594	-8.6	265	48.9	..	...	265	48.9	859	3.7
2003/2004	489	-17.7	189	-28.7	..	...	189	-28.7	678	-21.1
2004/2005	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
2005/2006	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...	..	...
Nova Scotia^{1,2}										
2001/2002	1,507	...	1,881	...	467	...	2,348	...	3,855	...
2002/2003	1,550	2.9	1,949	3.6	341	-27.0	2,290	-2.5	3,840	-0.4
2003/2004	1,523	-1.7	2,095	7.5	275	-19.4	2,370	3.5	3,893	1.4
2004/2005	1,667	9.5	2,197	4.9	287	4.4	2,484	4.8	4,151	6.6
2005/2006	1,540	-7.6	2,098	-4.5	275	-4.2	2,373	-4.5	3,913	-5.7
New Brunswick²										
2001/2002	1,555	...	1,337	...	574	...	1,911	...	3,466	...
2002/2003	2,454	57.8	1,358	1.6	536	-6.6	1,894	-0.9	4,348	25.4
2003/2004	2,303	-6.2	1,469	8.2	549	2.4	2,018	6.5	4,321	-0.6
2004/2005	2,236	-2.9	1,543	5.0	595	8.4	2,138	5.9	4,374	1.2
2005/2006	2,285	2.2	1,573	1.9	688	15.6	2,261	5.8	4,546	3.9
Quebec										
2001/2002	14,372	...	27,341	...	2,984	...	30,325	...	44,697	...
2002/2003	13,423	-6.6	26,588	-2.8	3,069	2.8	29,657	-2.2	43,080	-3.6
2003/2004	11,933	-11.1	25,761	-3.1	2,849	-7.2	28,610	-3.5	40,543	-5.9
2004/2005	9,850	-17.5	25,992	0.9	3,076	8.0	29,068	1.6	38,918	-4.0
2005/2006	8,001	-18.8	26,921	3.6	3,359	9.2	30,280	4.2	38,281	-1.6
Ontario²										
2001/2002	31,980	...	56,370	...	2,955	...	59,325	...	91,305	...
2002/2003	33,050	3.3	58,470	3.7	3,174	7.4	61,644	3.9	94,694	3.7
2003/2004	31,073	-6.0	56,423	-3.5	3,097	-2.4	59,520	-3.4	90,593	-4.3
2004/2005	30,076	-3.2	57,000	1.0	3,684	19.0	60,684	2.0	90,760	0.2
2005/2006	30,711	2.1	60,635	6.4	3,531	-4.2	64,166	5.7	94,877	4.5
Manitoba										
2001/2002	3,025	...	7,625	...	5,554	...	13,179	...	16,204	...
2002/2003	3,316	9.6	8,615	13.0	6,083	9.5	14,698	11.5	18,014	11.2
2003/2004	3,139	-5.3	8,273	-4.0	7,349	20.8	15,622	6.3	18,761	4.1
2004/2005	3,508	11.8	8,390	1.4	6,451	-12.2	14,841	-5.0	18,349	-2.2
2005/2006	3,748	6.8	9,816	17.0	7,367	14.2	17,183	15.8	20,931	14.1
Saskatchewan²										
2001/2002	3,345	...	4,982	...	171	...	5,153	...	8,498	...
2002/2003	3,536	5.7	5,518	10.8	190	11.1	5,708	10.8	9,244	8.8
2003/2004	3,311 ^r	-6.4	5,464 ^r	-1.0	175	-7.9	5,639	-1.2	8,950 ^r	-3.2
2004/2005	3,475 ^r	5.0	5,390 ^r	-1.4	194 ^r	10.9	5,584 ^r	-1.0	9,059 ^r	1.2
2005/2006	3,418	-1.6	5,375	-0.3	198	2.1	5,573	-0.2	8,991	-0.8
Alberta¹										
2001/2002	15,164	...	8,875	...	..	...	8,875	...	24,039	...
2002/2003	16,190	6.8	9,655	8.8	..	...	9,655	8.8	25,845	7.5
2003/2004	16,255	0.4	10,037	4.0	..	...	10,037	4.0	26,292	1.7
2004/2005	16,540	1.8	10,077	0.4	..	...	10,077	0.4	26,617	1.2
2005/2006	17,249	4.3	10,284	2.1	..	...	10,284	2.1	27,533	3.4

See note(s) at the end of this table.

Table 3

Admissions to provincial and territorial custody, by province and territory, 2001/2002 to 2005/2006 (continued)

Jurisdiction and year	Non-sentenced admissions									
	Sentenced admissions		Remand ¹		Temporary/ other detention		Total		Total	
	number	percentage change	number	percentage change	number	percentage change	number	percentage change	number	percentage change
British Columbia										
2001/2002	9,263	...	10,687	...	13,362	...	24,049	...	33,312	...
2002/2003	8,740	-5.6	11,507	7.7	13,030	-2.5	24,537	2.0	33,277	-0.1
2003/2004	8,812	0.8	11,840	2.9	13,565	4.1	25,405	3.5	34,217	2.8
2004/2005	9,074	3.0	12,542	5.9	11,693	-13.8	24,235	-4.6	33,309	-2.7
2005/2006	9,224	1.7	13,580	8.3	..	..	13,580	-44.0	22,804	-31.5
Yukon										
2001/2002	280	...	323	...	24	...	347	...	627	...
2002/2003	212 ^r	-24.3	327	1.2	13	-45.8	340	-2.0	552	-12.0
2003/2004	192	-9.4	358	9.5	15	15.4	373	9.7	565	2.4
2004/2005	188	-2.1	373	4.2	9	-40.0	382	2.4	570	0.9
2005/2006	202	7.4	380	1.9	18	100.0	398	4.2	600	5.3
Northwest Territories										
2001/2002	562	...	237	...	13	...	250	...	812	...
2002/2003	685	21.9	268	13.1	2	...	270	8.0	955	17.6
2003/2004	616	-10.1	233	-13.1	4	100.0	237	-12.2	853	-10.7
2004/2005	483	-21.6	238	2.1	3	-25.0	241	1.7	724	-15.1
2005/2006	451	-6.6	245	2.9	1	-66.7	246	2.1	697	-3.7
Nunavut										
2001/2002	217	...	254	...	..	...	254	...	471	...
2002/2003	240	10.6	197	-22.4	..	...	197	-22.4	437	-7.2
2003/2004	171	-28.8	192	-2.5	..	...	192	-2.5	363	-16.9
2004/2005	180	5.3	222	15.6	..	...	222	15.6	402	10.7
2005/2006	236	31.1	280	26.1	..	...	280	26.1	516	28.4
Provincial/territorial total (includes all data)										
2001/2002	83,155	...	120,512	...	26,197	...	146,709	...	229,864	...
2002/2003	85,138	2.4	125,144	3.8	26,538	1.3	151,682	3.4	236,820 ^r	3.0
2003/2004	81,005 ^r	-4.9	122,781 ^r	-1.9	27,990 ^r	5.5	150,771 ^r	-0.6	231,776 ^r	-2.1
2004/2005	78,351 ^r	-3.3	124,452 ^r	1.4	26,087 ^r	-6.8	150,539 ^r	-0.2	228,890 ^r	-1.2
2005/2006	78,081	-0.3	131,620	5.8	15,521	-40.5	147,141	-2.3	225,222	-1.6
Adjusted provincial/territorial total (excludes jurisdictions with missing data) ³										
2001/2002	82,505	...	120,334	...	12,835	...	133,169	...	215,674	...
2002/2003	84,544	2.5	124,879	3.8	13,508	5.2	138,387	3.9	222,931	3.4
2003/2004	80,516	-4.8	122,592	-1.8	14,425	6.8	137,017	-1.0	217,533	-2.4
2004/2005	78,351	-2.7	124,452	1.5	14,394	-0.2	138,846	1.3	217,197	-0.2
2005/2006	78,081	-0.3	131,620	5.8	15,521	7.8	147,141	6.0	225,222	3.7

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Figures for remand may include admissions to other temporary detention.

2. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from microdata for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/2002; Nova Scotia, 2002/2003; New Brunswick, 2002/2003; Ontario, 2005/2006; Saskatchewan, 2001/2002. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

3. To allow year-over-year comparisons, Prince Edward Island has been excluded from all totals due to missing data. British Columbia -other temporary detention has been excluded to allow year-over-year comparison.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 4

Releases from remand, length of time served, by province and territory, 1996/1997 and 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Total releases	Time served (days) ¹								Median
		1 to 7	8 to 14	15 to 31	32 to 92	93 to 184	185 to 366	367 to 729	More than 729	
		number	percentage							
Newfoundland and Labrador ²										
1996/1997	88	17	23	28	26	5	1	0	0	19
2005/2006	430	16	15	20	31	14	2	2	0	30
Prince Edward Island										
1996/1997	20	90	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	4
2005/2006	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia ²										
1996/1997	1,372	85	6	4	3	1	0	0	0	2
2005/2006	2,142	52	10	13	16	5	2	1	0	7
New Brunswick ²										
1996/1997	542	76	7	10	5	0	0	0	0	3
2005/2006	1,568	53	8	13	20	4	1	0	0	6
Quebec										
1996/1997	20,808	76	8	6	6	2	1	0	0	3
2005/2006	18,318	70	9	8	8	3	1	1	0	4
Ontario ²										
1996/1997	44,171	53	16	12	12	4	1	0	0	7
2005/2006	60,511	51	13	14	15	5	2	1	0	7
Manitoba ³										
1996/1997	8,588	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
2005/2006	9,816	51	10	12	17	7	3	1	0	7
Saskatchewan ²										
1996/1997	6,033	72	10	4	9	3	1	0	0	4
2005/2006	5,255	52	13	12	15	6	2	1	0	7
Alberta										
1996/1997	9,218	70	12	11	6	1	0	0	0	3
2005/2006	10,196	60	16	14	9	2	1	0	0	5
British Columbia										
1996/1997	9,942	55	15	15	11	2	1	0	0	1
2005/2006	13,461	48	14	16	17	4	1	0	0	9
Yukon										
1996/1997	236	56	9	22	17	4	0	1	0	6
2005/2006	384	42	13	15	22	5	1	1	0	11
Northwest Territories										
1996/1997	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	267	17	11	19	34	15	4	0	0	28
Nunavut										
1996/1997	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2005/2006	290	35	12	18	22	8	3	1	0	..

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. The 'time served' calculations exclude releases for which length of time served is unknown.

2. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from microdata for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/2002; Nova Scotia, 2002/2003; New Brunswick, 2002/2003; Ontario 2003/2004; Saskatchewan, 2001/2002. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

3. For 1996/1997, releases for Manitoba are for both sentenced custody and remand and were therefore excluded from the total.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 5

Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services that served remand or sentenced custody with no remand, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan, 2005/2006

	Total		Remand		Sentenced custody; no remand	
	number	percentage ¹	number	percentage ¹	number	percentage ¹
Total	45,774	100.0	39,640	100.0	6,134	100.0
Jurisdiction						
Newfoundland and Labrador	573	1.3	243	0.6	330	5.4
Nova Scotia	1,473	3.2	1,065	2.7	408	6.7
New Brunswick	1,992	4.4	968	2.4	1,024	16.7
Ontario	37,960	82.9	34,495	87.0	3,465	56.5
Saskatchewan	3,776	8.2	2,869	7.2	907	14.8
Sex						
Male	40,302	88.1	34,799	87.8	5,503	89.9
Female	5,437	11.9	4,818	12.2	619	10.1
Unknown	35	...	23	...	12	...
Aboriginal identity						
Aboriginal	5,946	13.0	4,946	12.5	1,000	16.5
Non-Aboriginal	39,634	87.0	34,564	87.5	5,070	83.5
Unknown	194	...	130	...	64	...
Age at first involvement admission date						
Under 18	58	0.1	53	0.1	5	0.1
18 to 19	4,270	9.3	3,999	10.1	271	4.4
20 to 24	8,520	18.6	7,565	19.1	955	15.6
25 to 29	7,000	15.3	6,147	15.5	853	13.9
30 to 34	6,010	13.1	5,199	13.1	811	13.2
35 to 39	6,225	13.6	5,379	13.6	846	13.8
40 to 44	5,755	12.6	4,914	12.4	841	13.7
45 to 49	3,980	8.7	3,330	8.4	650	10.6
50 and over	3,946	8.6	3,050	7.7	896	14.6
Unknown	10	...	4	...	6	...
Mean	33	...	33	...	36	...
Median	32	...	31	...	35	...
Marital status ²						
Single - never married	26,293	60.1	23,109	61.2	3,184	53.4
Married	5,803	13.3	4,993	13.2	810	13.6
Common-law	5,909	13.5	4,904	13.0	1,005	16.8
Separated/divorced	5,466	12.5	4,556	12.1	910	15.3
Widowed	253	0.6	197	0.5	56	0.9
Unknown	2,050	...	1,881	...	169	...
Education completed for age 25 and over ²						
No formal education	31	0.1	23	0.1	8	0.2
Some primary	901	4.1	681	3.7	220	5.9
Completed primary	1,536	7.0	1,117	6.1	419	11.3
Some secondary	9,945	45.2	8,651	47.3	1,294	34.9
Completed secondary	7,465	33.9	6,024	32.9	1,441	38.9
Some post-secondary	1,098	5.0	963	5.3	135	3.6
Completed post-secondary	1,034	4.7	842	4.6	192	5.2
Unknown	11,945	...	10,719	...	1,226	...
Employment status at admission ²						
Unemployed (but able to work)	7,835	43.3	6,212	43.1	1,623	44.1
Employed (part-time, full-time)	8,513	47.0	6,787	47.1	1,726	46.9
Not employable - disabled, medical reasons, etc.	947	5.2	811	5.6	136	3.7
Student - not employed	477	2.6	384	2.7	93	2.5
Retired - not employed	108	0.6	61	0.4	47	1.3
Other - not employed	219	1.2	165	1.1	54	1.5
Unknown	27,675	...	25,220	...	2,455	...
Need indicated ^{2,3}						
Substance abuse (Total number = 2,770)	2,590	93.5	1,921	93.7	669	92.9
Attitude (Total number = 2,768)	2,275	82.2	1,729	84.4	546	75.9
Family/marital (Total number = 2,770)	1,571	56.7	1,231	60.0	340	47.2
Personal/emotional (Total number = 2,770)	428	15.5	330	16.1	98	13.6
Social interaction (Total number = 2,770)	2,343	84.6	1,765	86.1	578	80.3
Employment (Total number = 2,770)	1,911	69.0	1,462	71.3	449	62.4

See note(s) at the end of this table.

Table 5

Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services that served remand or sentenced custody with no remand, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan, 2005/2006 (continued)

	Total		Remand		Sentenced custody; no remand	
	number	percentage ¹	number	percentage ¹	number	percentage ¹
Number of needs indicated ^{2,4}						
Zero to one	98	3.5	61	3.0	37	5.1
Two to three	696	25.1	451	22.0	245	34.1
Four	920	33.2	693	33.8	227	31.6
Five to six	1,054	38.1	844	41.2	210	29.2
Mean	4	...	4	...	4	...
Median	4	...	4	...	4	...
Most serious offence, first involvement ⁵						
Violent offences	16,909	36.9	15,950	40.2	959	15.6
Serious violent offences ⁶	4,539	9.9	4,282	10.8	257	4.2
Sexual offences	1,756	3.8	1,525	3.8	231	3.8
Robbery	1,934	4.2	1,841	4.6	93	1.5
Common assault	4,017	8.8	3,781	9.5	236	3.8
Other violent offences ⁷	4,663	10.2	4,521	11.4	142	2.3
Property offences	10,050	22.0	9,101	23.0	949	15.5
Break and enter	3,026	6.6	2,815	7.1	211	3.4
Theft and possession of property	4,326	9.5	3,817	9.6	509	8.3
Fraud	1,952	4.3	1,785	4.5	167	2.7
Other property offences	746	1.6	684	1.7	62	1.0
Offences against the Administration of Justice	6,347	13.9	5,510	13.9	837	13.6
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic)	5,127	11.2	4,600	11.6	527	8.6
<i>Criminal Code</i> - traffic offences	2,700	5.9	1,478	3.7	1,222	19.9
Drug offences	2,928	6.4	2,566	6.5	362	5.9
Other offences ⁸	1,713	3.7	435	1.1	1,278	20.8

... not applicable

1. Percentage calculations exclude 'unknown'.

2. Refers to most recent status as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

3. Excludes Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario and includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Need level indicated as medium or high.

4. Excludes Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario and includes only those cases in which all needs were assessed. Need is indicated as being present when the need is assessed as medium or high. Maximum number of needs is 6 and minimum is 0. For remand, number = 2,049. For sentenced custody, no remand, number = 719.

5. Ranked using the CCJS Courts Program Seriousness Ranking, 2006.

6. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major assault.

7. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

8. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, municipal bylaw infractions, and unknown offences.

Note: Data represent 74% of the national volume of admissions to custody and are not representative at the national level.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 6

Conditional sentence and probation commencements, 2001/2002 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Conditional sentences	Percentage change	Probation	Percentage change
	number	percentage	number	percentage
Newfoundland and Labrador ¹				
2001/2002	321	...	1,789	...
2002/2003	312 ^r	-2.8	1,736 ^r	-3.0
2003/2004	410	31.4	1,741 ^r	0.3
2004/2005	408	-0.5	1,700	-2.4
2005/2006	398	-2.5	1,563	-8.1
Prince Edward Island				
2001/2002	40	...	563	...
2002/2003	37	-7.5	541	-3.9
2003/2004	58	56.8	498	-7.9
2004/2005	..	...	..	...
2005/2006	..	...	..	...
Nova Scotia ¹				
2001/2002	614	...	3,547	...
2002/2003	615 ^r	0.2	2,999 ^r	-15.4
2003/2004	622 ^r	1.1	3,094 ^r	3.2
2004/2005	701 ^r	12.7	3,212 ^r	3.8
2005/2006	710	1.3	3,252	1.2
New Brunswick ¹				
2001/2002	667	...	1,830	...
2002/2003	606	-9.1	1,792	-2.1
2003/2004	615	1.5	1,754	-2.1
2004/2005	632 ^r	2.8	1,786 ^r	1.8
2005/2006	665	5.2	1,627	-8.9
Quebec				
2001/2002	4,670	...	8,277	...
2002/2003	4,941	5.8	8,280	0.0
2003/2004	4,525	-8.4	8,645	4.4
2004/2005	4,343	-4.0	9,263	7.1
2005/2006	4,297	-1.1	9,448	2.0
Ontario ¹				
2001/2002	4,416	...	38,236	...
2002/2003	4,920	11.4	39,778	4.0
2003/2004	5,222 ^r	6.1	36,682 ^r	-7.8
2004/2005	5,260 ^r	0.7	35,986 ^r	-1.9
2005/2006	5,148	-2.1	36,781	2.2
Manitoba ²				
2001/2002	766	...	5,219	...
2002/2003	798	4.2	3,501	-32.9
2003/2004	739	-7.4	3,379	-3.5
2004/2005	982	32.9	5,344	58.2
2005/2006	1,152	17.3	6,228	16.5
Saskatchewan ¹				
2001/2002	1,365	...	3,444	...
2002/2003	1,472 ^r	7.8	3,553 ^r	3.2
2003/2004	1,523 ^r	3.5	3,452 ^r	-2.8
2004/2005	1,463 ^r	-3.9	3,502 ^r	1.4
2005/2006	1,460	-0.2	3,576	2.1
Alberta ¹				
2001/2002	1,731	...	9,438	...
2002/2003	1,590	-8.1	8,821	-6.5
2003/2004	1,407 ^r	-11.5	7,866 ^r	-10.8
2004/2005	1,425 ^r	1.3	8,058 ^r	2.4
2005/2006	1,284	-9.9	8,300	3.0
British Columbia				
2001/2002	3,712	...	11,067	...
2002/2003	3,545	-4.5	10,429	-5.8
2003/2004	3,141	-11.4	9,120	-12.6
2004/2005	3,338	6.3	9,662	5.9
2005/2006	3,074	-7.9	9,244	-4.3

See note(s) at the end of this table.

Table 6

Conditional sentence and probation commencements, 2001/2002 to 2005/2006 (continued)

Jurisdiction	Conditional sentences	Percentage change	Probation	Percentage change
	number	percentage	number	percentage
Yukon				
2001/2002	104	...	338	...
2002/2003	99	-4.8	363	7.4
2003/2004	96	-3.0	292	-19.6
2004/2005	103	7.3	298	2.1
2005/2006	97	-5.8	311	4.4
Northwest Territories				
2001/2002	..	...	..	...
2002/2003	..	...	..	...
2003/2004	..	...	..	...
2004/2005	..	...	..	...
2005/2006	..	...	..	...
Nunavut				
2001/2002	198	...	801	...
2002/2003	285	43.9	885	10.5
2003/2004	328	15.1	922	4.2
2004/2005	235	-28.4	841	-8.8
2005/2006	295	25.5	1,100	30.8
Provincial/territorial total (includes all data)				
2001/2002	18,604	...	84,549	...
2002/2003	19,220	3.3	82,678	-2.2
2003/2004	18,686 ^r	-2.8	77,445 ^r	-6.3
2004/2005	18,890	1.1	79,652	2.8
2005/2006	18,580	-1.6	81,430	2.2
Adjusted provincial/territorial total (excludes jurisdictions with missing data) ³				
2001/2002	18,564	...	83,986	...
2002/2003	19,183	3.3	82,137	-2.2
2003/2004	18,628	-2.9	76,947	-6.3
2004/2005	18,890	1.4	79,652	3.5
2005/2006	18,580	-1.6	81,430	2.2

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

^r revised

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/2002; Nova Scotia, 2002/2003; New Brunswick, 2002/2003; Ontario, 2005/2006; Saskatchewan, 2001/2002; Alberta, 2003/2004. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution.

2. While probation admissions for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 have decreased from 2000/2001 levels, some of the decrease can be attributed to the implementation in 1999/2000 of a new information system Corrections Offender Management System (COMS).

3. To allow year-over-year comparisons, Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories have been excluded from the totals due to missing data in some years.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 7

Admissions to probation by major offence, 2001/2002 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction and year	Total probation admissions	Criminal Code				Other federal statutes		Provincial/ territorial statutes and municipal by-laws
		Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other	Drug offences	Other	
	number				percentage			
Newfoundland and Labrador ¹								
2001/2002	1,789	36	28	7	21	0	7	1
2002/2003	1,736	36	28	7	22 ^r	4 ^r	2 ^r	2
2003/2004	1,741 ^r	34	27	7	22	4	3	3
2004/2005	1,700	35	28	6	22	4	2	3
2005/2006	1,563	33	31	6	20	5	3	2
Prince Edward Island								
2001/2002	563	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2002/2003	541	36	26	18	18	1	0	0
2003/2004	498	44	21	17	15	3	0	0
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia ¹								
2001/2002	3,547	35	23	7	28	7	1	0
2002/2003	2,999 ^r	42 ^r	28 ^r	7	18 ^r	4 ^r	1	0
2003/2004	3,094 ^r	42 ^r	28 ^r	8	19	3	0 ^s	0
2004/2005	3,212 ^r	41 ^r	28 ^r	7 ^r	20 ^r	3	1	0 ^s
2005/2006	3,252	42	29	6	19	4	1	0 ^s
New Brunswick ^{1,2}								
2001/2002	1,830	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2002/2003	1,792	38 ^r	32 ^r	4 ^r	16 ^r	9 ^r	0 ^s	0 ^s
2003/2004	1,754	42 ^r	33 ^r	4 ^r	15 ^r	6 ^r	0 ^{r,s}	0 ^{r,s}
2004/2005	1,786 ^r	41 ^r	35 ^r	3 ^r	15 ^r	5 ^r	0 ^{r,s}	0 ^{r,s}
2005/2006	1,627	38	36	4	17	4	0 ^s	0 ^s
Quebec								
2001/2002	8,277	31	35	4	18	11	1	0 ^s
2002/2003	8,280	32	34	4	19	11	0 ^s	0 ^s
2003/2004	8,645	31	34	4	20	11	0 ^s	0 ^s
2004/2005	9,263	31	34	4	21	10	0 ^s	1
2005/2006	9,448	32	32	4	20	11	0 ^s	1
Ontario								
2001/2002	38,236	53	23	5	12	6	0 ^s	1
2002/2003	39,778	54	23	5	16	2	0 ^s	0 ^s
2003/2004	36,682 ^r	44 ^r	27 ^r	5 ^r	19 ^r	4 ^r	0 ^s	1 ^r
2004/2005	35,986 ^r	42 ^r	28 ^r	4	20	5 ^r	0 ^r	1 ^r
2005/2006	36,781	35	22	3	17	4	0 ^s	1
Manitoba ³								
2001/2002	5,219	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2002/2003	3,501	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	3,379	54	21	4	19	2	0 ^s	0 ^s
2004/2005	5,344	56	19	3	20	1	0 ^s	0 ^s
2005/2006	6,228	58	20	3	18	2	0	0
Saskatchewan ¹								
2001/2002	3,444	50	24	6	17	2	1	0 ^s
2002/2003	3,553 ^r	42 ^r	28 ^r	7	21 ^r	2	1 ^r	0 ^s
2003/2004	3,452 ^r	40	28 ^r	6	23 ^r	2	1	1
2004/2005	3,502 ^r	41	28	5	22	2	1 ^r	1
2005/2006	3,576	39	28	6	23	3	1	0 ^s
Alberta ¹								
2001/2002	9,438	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2002/2003	8,821	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	7,866 ^r	33	35	8	19	3	0 ^s	1
2004/2005	8,058 ^r	34	36	7 ^r	19 ^r	3	0 ^s	1
2005/2006	8,300	37	33	7	19	3	0	1

See note(s) at the end of this table.

Table 7

Admissions to probation by major offence, 2001/2002 to 2005/2006 (continued)

Jurisdiction and year	Total probation admissions	Criminal Code				Other federal statutes		Provincial/ territorial statutes and municipal by-laws
		Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other	Drug offences	Other	
	number				percentage			
British Columbia								
2001/2002	11,067	40	33	3	14	8	0	1
2002/2003	10,429	40	34	3	14	8	0 ^s	1
2003/2004	9,120	37	34	3	18	7	0 ^s	1
2004/2005	9,662	39	34	3	16	7	0 ^s	1
2005/2006	9,244	38	31	3	21	7	0 ^s	1
Yukon								
2001/2002	338	32	15	5	41	3	0	4
2002/2003	363	50	14	7	23	5	0	1
2003/2004	292	46	15	5	26	5	0 ^s	3
2004/2005	298	52	16	6	21	3	1	0 ^s
2005/2006	311	60	13	8	10	4	1	2
Northwest Territories								
2001/2002	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut ⁴								
2001/2002	801	51	22	1	20	4	0	2
2002/2003	885	51	12	1	30	4	0	1
2003/2004	922	54	11	2	29	2	0	1
2004/2005	841	53	20	1	25	1	0	0 ^s
2005/2006	1,100	58	12	2	26	1	0	0
Provincial/territorial total (includes all data)								
2001/2002	84,549	46	26	5	15	6	1	1
2002/2003	82,678 ^r	47	26	5	17	4	0 ^{s,r}	0 ^s
2003/2004	77,445 ^r	41 ^r	29 ^r	5	19	5	0 ^{s,r}	1 ^r
2004/2005	79,652	40	29	5	20	5	0 ^s	1
2005/2006	81,430	41	28	4	20	5	0	1

.. not available for a specific reference period

^r revised

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between zero and the value that was rounded

1. Data for these respondents are from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey and have been tabulated from micro data for the years commencing as follows: Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001/2002; Nova Scotia, 2002/2003; New Brunswick, 2002/2003; Alberta, 2003/2004 Saskatchewan, 2001/2002. Accordingly, comparisons to data from previous years should be made with caution. In 2004/2005, data for these respondents have been tabulated using a revised method of determining 'most serious offence' and, as such, comparison to previous years should be made with caution.

2. Offence data unavailable due to a changeover to a new case management system.

3. Offence data unavailable due to major system development work.

4. Nunavut - Data are provided by the informatic court services. Nunavut admissions to community corrections represent the unique number of persons admitted to a particular legal status during the year and not the number of distinct admissions.

Note: Calculations for percent distribution are based on total probation admissions excluding those where major offence is not known.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 8

Characteristics of adult offenders admitted to correctional services, 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Sentenced custody			Remand			Probation			Conditional sentence			Total Aboriginal adult population 2006
	Female	Aboriginal	Median age ¹	Female	Aboriginal	Median age ¹	Female	Aboriginal	Median age ¹	Female	Aboriginal	Median age ¹	
	percentage	number		percentage	number		percentage	number		percentage	number		percentage
Newfoundland and Labrador ²	4	14	32	4	17	30	17	..	31	22	11	31	5
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nova Scotia ²	8	9	31	8	9	30	18	4	31	14	6	31	3
New Brunswick ²	11	7	31	11	9	31	19	7	31	17	9	32	3
Quebec	11	3	37	9	4	33	14	8	32	13	6	34	2
Ontario ²	11	9	33	13	10	31	17	8	32	20	11	33	2
Manitoba	8	71	28	12	65	28	18	55	29	16	43	28	16
Saskatchewan ²	13	79	29	8	76	28	23	65	29	17	69	29	15
Alberta	13	38	31	14	28	29	19	23	30	19	16	30	6
British Columbia	10	20	33	14	19	32	19	20	32	16	17	34	5
Yukon	11	73	31	11	72	30	21	57	32	10	59	37	25
Northwest Territories	6	89	30	5	87	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Nunavut	2	99	38	2	98	35	15	95	..	11	97	..	85
Provincial/territorial total	11	24	...	12	19	...	18	19	...	17	20	...	...
Federal total	6	18	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	11	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. The median age at admission is the age where, if all the people are ordered by age, half of the people are younger and half are older.

2. For Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan, percentage calculation is based on sentence custody totals excluding intermittent sentences.

Note: Percentages exclude not stated.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey; Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Census of population.

Table 9

Adult admissions to provincial, territorial and federal sentenced custody by major offence, 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Unit of count ¹	Total	Criminal Code				Other federal statutes ²			Provincial/territorial statutes and municipal by laws	
			Crimes of violence	Property crimes	Impaired driving	Other Criminal Code	Total	Drug offences	Other		
											Total	Total
		number	percentage								
Newfoundland and Labrador	MSO	1,016	29	24	12	26	90	3	6	9	1
Prince Edward Island	MSO	..	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	...	..
Nova Scotia	MSO	1,540	25	22	3	30	80	4	14	18	2
New Brunswick	MSO	2,285	17	25	10	25	77	6	2	8	15
Quebec	MSO	8,001	10	18	25	16	69	12	0	12	19
Ontario	MSO	30,711	22	28	2	38	90	6	1	7	4
Manitoba	MSO	3,748	60	17	5	12	93	1	5	6	1
Saskatchewan	MSO	3,418	17	22	5	48	92	2	1	3	4
Alberta	MC	57,394	7	20	2	39	69	3	1	4	27
British Columbia	MSD	9,224	14	28	2	38	83	9	7	16	1
Yukon	MSO	202	31	23	7	33	95	4	0	4	1
Northwest Territories	MSO	451	63	13	4	18	98	2	0 ^s	2	0
Nunavut	MSO	236	74	13	1	12	100	0	0	0	0
Federal total	MSO	4,873	50	23	1	16	89	10	0	10	1

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between zero and the value that was rounded

1. MSO = most serious offence. MSD = most serious disposition. MC = multiple charge. Alberta classifies program commencements using a 'multiple charge' method. This means that an individual commencing a custody program for multiple charges will be counted for each distinct but separate charge. Offence data for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan have been tabulated using a revised method of determining 'most serious offence' and, as such, comparison to previous years should be made with caution.

2. Includes the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and other federal statutes.

Notes: Calculations for percent distribution are based on total admissions excluding those where major offence is not known. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Table 10

Operating expenditures and average daily expenditures for persons in provincial/territorial custody,^{1,2} constant 1992/1993 dollars, 1996/1997 to 2005/2006

	Current dollars		Constant 1992/1993 dollars		
	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate expenditures	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate expenditures	
	thousands of dollars	dollars	thousands of dollars	dollars	percentage change
1996/1997	825,386	116.04	779,401	109.58	...
1997/1998	848,837	123.28	791,088	114.89	4.9
1998/1999 ³	848,547 ^r	121.49	783,515	112.18	...
1999/2000	883,132	130.44	797,771	117.83	5.0
2000/2001	911,564 ^r	132.94	801,727	116.92	-0.8
2001/2002	938,559 ^r	133.95	807,015	115.18	-1.5
2002/2003	1,022,477 ^r	142.88	854,200	119.37	3.6
2003/2004	1,000,838 ^r	141.72	820,359	116.16	-2.7
2004/2005	1,025,087	142.22	822,703	114.14	-1.7
2005/2006	1,088,802	143.03	853,962	112.18	-1.7
Percentage change from 2001/2002 to 2005/2006	...	...	5.8	-2.6	...

... not applicable

^r revised

1. Daily offender cost is calculated by dividing the operational expenditures by the 'total days stayed'. 'Total days stay' is based on average daily (actual-in) counts of inmates multiplied by the number of days in the year. Custodial Services operating expenditures constitute total operating expenditures for government facilities as well as purchased services related to institutional activities.

2. Due to missing data for some years, data from Prince Edward Island has been excluded for all years.

3. Prior to 1998/1999, the institutional operating expenditures excluded purchased services. Because of this change in methodology, the percentage change in average daily inmate expenditures between 1997/1998 and 1998/1999 has not been calculated.

Note: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Table 11

Operating expenditures for provincial/territorial community services,¹ constant 1992/1993 dollars, 1996/1997 to 2005/2006

	Operating expenditures		
	Current dollars	Constant 1992/1993 dollars	
	thousands of dollars	thousands of dollars	percentage change
1996/1997	128,945	121,761	...
1997/1998	155,712	145,118	19.2
1998/1999	159,068	146,877	1.2
1999/2000	167,158	151,001	2.8
2000/2001	178,924	157,365	4.2
2001/2002	192,336	165,423	5.1
2002/2003	202,951	169,501	2.5
2003/2004	208,995	171,344	1.1
2004/2005	220,817	177,230	3.4
2005/2006	238,756	187,314	5.7
Percentage change from 2001/2002 to 2005/2006	...	13.2	...

... not applicable

1. Due to missing data for some years, data from Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded for all years.

Note: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Table 12

Operating expenditures of the adult correctional system, 2005/2006

	Current dollars									
	Custodial services		Community supervision services		Headquarters and central services		NPB ¹ or provincial parole boards ²		Total	Per capita expenditures ³
	thousands of dollars	percentage	thousands of dollars	percentage	thousands of dollars	percentage	thousands of dollars	percentage	thousands of dollars	dollars
Federal expenditures ⁴	1,028,015	65.2	168,898	10.7	336,585	21.4	42,800	2.7	1,576,298	48.85
Provincial and territorial expenditures ⁵	1,088,802	78.4	241,846	17.4	53,885	3.9	4,972	0.4	1,389,504	42.59
Total expenditures⁶	2,116,817	71.4	410,744	13.8	390,470	13.2	47,772	1.6	2,965,802	91.90

1. National Parole Board.

2. Provincial parole boards operate in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

3. Per capita cost is total cost of correctional services divided by the total Canadian population.

4. Federal expenditures include the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board, but exclude CORCAN.

5. Capital costs have been excluded from all jurisdictions' expenditures.

6. Excludes all data from Prince Edward Island.

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

Table 13

Operating expenditures and average daily expenditures for persons in federal custody,¹ constant 1992/1993 dollars, 1996/1997 to 2005/2006

	Current dollars		Constant 1992/1993 dollars		
	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate expenditures	Operating expenditures	Average daily inmate expenditures	
	thousands of dollars	dollars	thousands of dollars	dollars	percentage change
1996/1997	685,483	150.19	647,293	141.82	...
1997/1998	692,123	154.97	645,035	144.43	1.8
1998/1999	822,389	171.08	759,362	157.97	9.4
1999/2000	872,408	187.12	788,083	169.03	7.0
2000/2001	881,781	205.60	775,533	180.83	7.0
2001/2002	977,229	235.25	840,266	202.28	11.9
2002/2003	942,708	239.05	787,559	199.70	-1.3
2003/2004	967,590	245.26	793,107	201.03	0.7
2004/2005	986,723	259.05	791,953	207.90	3.4
2005/2006	1,028,015	260.10	806,286	204.00	-1.9
Percentage change from 2001/2002 to 2005/2006	...	...	-4.0	0.9	...

... not applicable

r revised

1. Daily offender cost is calculated by dividing the operational expenditures by the 'total days stayed'. 'Total days stayed' is based on average daily (actual-in) counts of inmates multiplied by the number of days in the year. Custodial Services operating costs constitute total operating expenditures for government facilities as well as purchased services related to institutional activities.

Note: Percentage change has been calculated using unrounded numbers.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Resources, Expenditures and Personnel (REP) Survey; Public Accounts of Canada.

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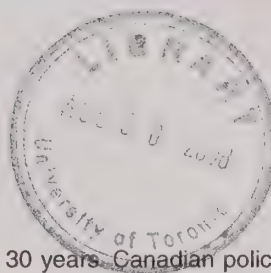
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Crime Statistics in Canada, 2007

by Mia Dauvergne



Highlights

- The 2007 national crime rate reached its lowest point in 30 years. Canadian police services reported a 7% decline in crime, the third consecutive annual decrease.
- The drop in crime was driven by decreases in virtually all high-volume offences: theft under \$5,000, mischief under \$5,000, break and enter, common assault, motor vehicle theft, disturbing the peace, fraud and counterfeiting currency.
- Crime rates fell in all provinces and territories except Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Despite a 4% decline, Saskatchewan reported the highest provincial crime rate for the tenth year in a row.
- Declines were reported in most of Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs), including the nine largest. The most substantial decreases were reported in Kitchener, Montréal and Winnipeg.
- The violent crime rate fell by 3%, marking its lowest point since 1989. Following increases in most serious violent crimes over the past two years, the 2007 rates of homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, forcible confinement and abduction declined or remained stable.
- The property crime rate dropped by 8% and reached its lowest point since 1969. Break and enters were at their lowest level in 40 years, dropping by 9% in 2007. Likewise, motor vehicle thefts declined by 9%.
- Among the few crimes to increase in 2007 were drug offences and impaired driving, both of which tend to be influenced by police enforcement practices. Drug offences were up 4%, with cannabis possession accounting for most of the increase. The rate of impaired driving rose 3%, following two consecutive annual decreases.
- The youth crime rate dropped by 2% in 2007, following a 3% increase in 2006. Violent crimes committed by youth remained stable, while declines were seen in most non-violent offences.
- There was a 2% increase in the rate of youth charged by police. However, the rate of youth cleared by other means, such as diversion programs, dropped 4%.



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Introduction

Each July, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) releases its annual report on police-reported crime in Canada. This report presents information on the short and long-term trends in overall, violent, property-related and drug crime at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area (CMA) levels.¹

The data are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, a census survey of all crime known to and substantiated by police services. These crime statistics conform to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions and have been systematically reported by police services and submitted to the CCJS each year since 1962.

Police-reported crime statistics represent one way to measure the nature and extent of crime in Canada. A complementary source of information can be obtained from the General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization. Information obtained from the GSS reflects self-reported data from a sample of Canadians, aged 15 years or older, who report having been victimized by a crime. The GSS is conducted every five years and collects crime data on eight offences: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, theft of personal property, theft of household property, motor vehicle/parts theft, and vandalism.

Typically, the GSS yields much higher rates of criminal victimization than the UCR Survey. Reasons for the disparity have been well-documented and include the fact that not all incidents are reported to police. According to the 2004 GSS, about one-third (34%) of criminal victimizations were reported to police. For further information on the findings from the GSS on victimization, see Gannon and Mihorean, 2005.

2007 Crime

Police-reported crime reaches its lowest level since 1977

Following a near 30-year low in 2006, the national crime rate² fell again in 2007, marking its lowest point since 1977 (Table 1). The 7% drop represented the third consecutive annual decrease and continues the general decline seen in police-reported crime since the rate peaked in 1991 (Chart 1).

Canadian police services reported approximately 2.3 million *Criminal Code* incidents in 2007 (Table 2). About half (48%) of all incidents were property-related, 13% were violent and 39% were classified as other offences (such as mischief and bail violations).

Ten crime types accounted for about 8 in 10 police-reported incidents in 2007: theft under \$5,000 (25%); mischief (16%); break and enter (10%); common assault (8%); motor vehicle theft (6%); disturbing the peace (5%); bail violations (5%); fraud (4%); counterfeiting currency (2%); and, assault with a weapon (2%).

The 2007 drop in crime was driven by decreases in virtually all of these high-volume, predominately non-violent offences (Table 2). Most notably, there were nearly 64,000 fewer incidents of counterfeiting currency. There were also about 38,600 fewer thefts under \$5,000, 20,500 fewer break and enters and 12,500 fewer motor vehicle thefts in 2007.

Crime falls in most provinces and territories

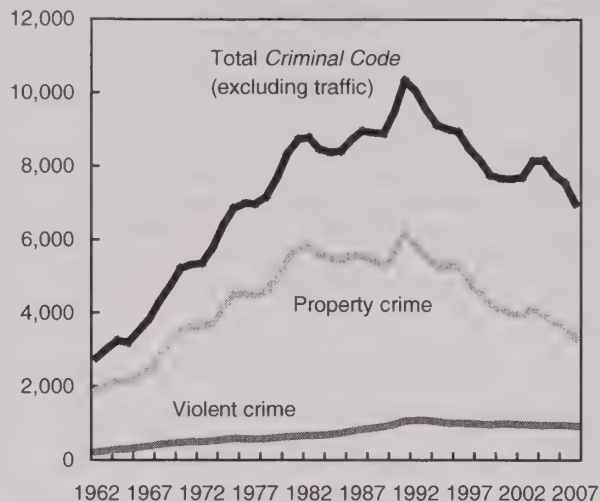
The drop in crime occurred in all provinces and territories other than the Northwest Territories (+6%), Yukon (+3%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+3%) (Table 3). The most substantial decreases were reported by police in Prince Edward Island (-12%) and Quebec (-10%).

1. The data presented in this report reflect aggregate counts of crime. More detailed information from the UCR Incident-based Survey are available upon request.
2. The crime rate is based upon total *Criminal Code* incidents, excluding traffic offences and other federal statute violations such as drug offences.

Chart 1

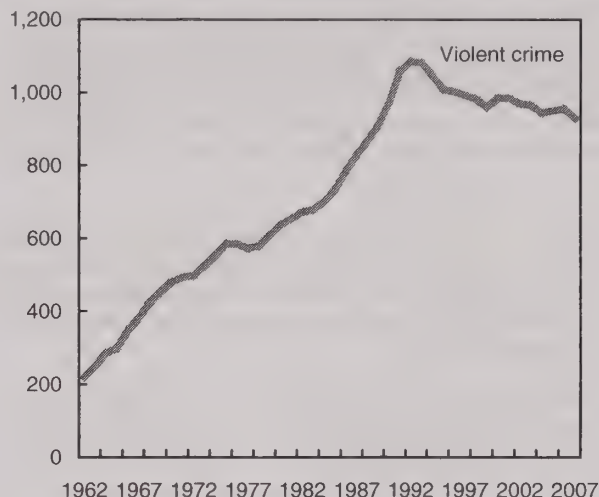
Crime rate, Canada, 1962 to 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Violent crime rate, Canada, 1962 to 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Continuing the pattern observed over the past 30 years, the highest provincial crime rates in 2007 were reported in the west. Despite a 4% decline, Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate among the provinces for the tenth year in a row, followed by Manitoba, British Columbia and Alberta (Chart 2). Crime rates in the territories were well above the rest of Canada, also consistent with findings from previous years. For the fourth year in a row, Ontario and Quebec reported the lowest 2007 police-reported crime rates.

Drops in crime were also reported in most of Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs),³ including the nine largest (Table 4). The most substantial decreases occurred in Kitchener (-17%), Montréal (-14%) and Winnipeg (-13%). The only areas to report increases were the smaller CMAs of St. John's, Saguenay, Saint John and Gatineau.⁴

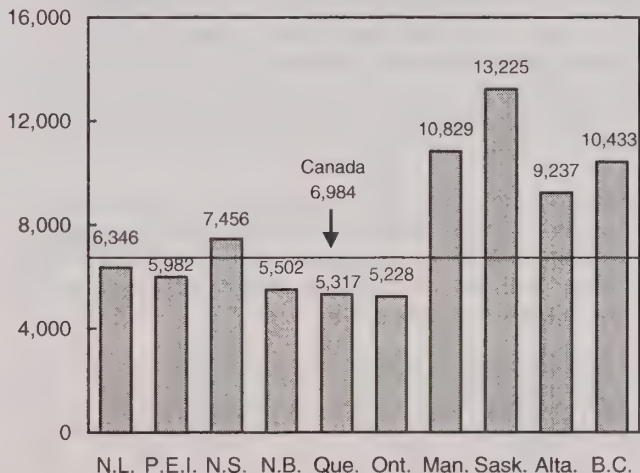
As in previous years, the highest crime rates were in the western CMAs: Regina, Saskatoon, Abbotsford, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Victoria and Vancouver. In contrast, the lowest crime rates were in the central part of the country: Saguenay, Toronto and Trois-Rivières.

3. A CMA refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) combined with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In 2007, there were 27 CMAs in Canada, representing almost two-thirds of the Canadian population. Due to an incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries, the Oshawa CMA is excluded from this analysis.
4. Part of the 2007 increase in crime in St. John's and Saint John can be attributed to changes in police reporting practices rather than actual increases in criminal activity.

Chart 2

Crime rate by province, 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Violent crime

Violent crime reaches a near 20-year low

Violent crime, accounting for about 1 in 8 criminal incidents, decreased in 2007, although to a lesser extent than did property crime and other non-violent offences. The 3% drop continued the downward trend in violent crime evident since the early 1990s and marked the lowest rate in nearly 20 years (Table 1).

The drop in total violent crime was due to decreases in common assault, robbery and sexual assault (Table 2). Common assault, the most frequent form of violent crime, fell by 3%, the seventh consecutive annual decline.

Other serious violent crimes, including homicide, attempted murder and abduction, also decreased while aggravated assault, assault with a weapon and forcible confinement remained stable. The stable rate of assault with a weapon follows seven years of previous increases.

Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province to report an increase in violent crime, up by 11%. This rise was driven primarily by an increase in common assaults. In line with the province as a whole, St. John's reported the largest increase in violent crime among all CMAs, up by 20%.

As in 2006, the lowest rate of violent crime in 2007 was in Prince Edward Island, followed by Quebec and Ontario. The rates in the western provinces, particularly Saskatchewan, were higher than those in the eastern and central parts of the country. The CMAs of Saint John, Thunder Bay and Halifax were exceptions to the general pattern, each reporting violent crime rates that were similar to or higher than those in the west.

Manitoba reports a record high in homicide

The homicide rate decreased for the second year in a row, down by 3% in 2007. Police reported 594 victims, 12 fewer than in 2006, representing a rate of 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population (Table 3). The homicide rate has been generally declining since the mid-1970s (Chart 3).

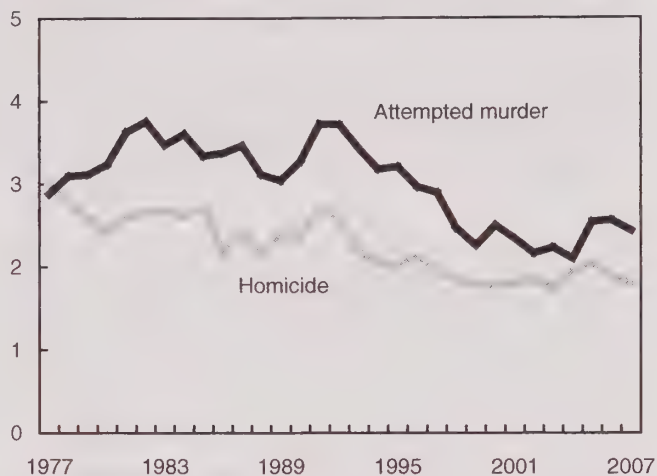
Declines in homicide were reported in all provinces except New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. The largest drop was in British Columbia, with 20 fewer homicides than in 2006, resulting in the lowest rate in that province since 1964. The rate in Quebec also reached its lowest point in over 40 years.

These decreases, however, were offset by a substantial increase in Manitoba where 62 homicides were reported, 23 more than the year before. The increase in Manitoba resulted in a rate of 5.2 victims per 100,000 population, the highest in Canada (Chart 4) and the highest rate in that province since recording began in 1961. The increase in Manitoba was primarily the result of a higher number of homicides committed in small urban and rural areas.

Chart 3

Homicide and attempted murder rate, Canada, 1977 to 2007

rate per 100,000 population

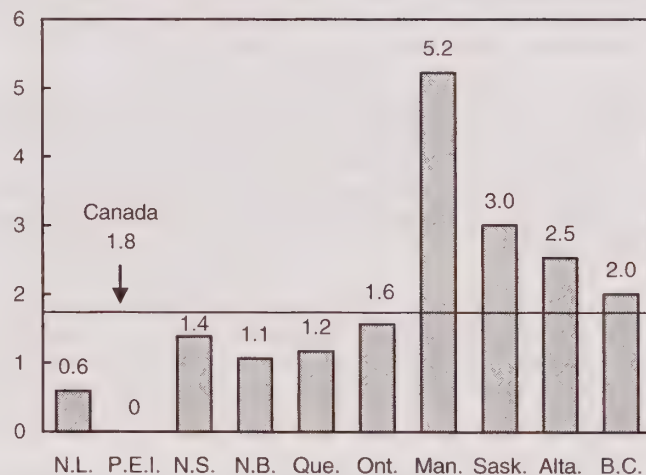


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Chart 4

Homicide rate by province, 2007

rate per 100,000 population



0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

With 111 homicides in 2007, Toronto reported the most homicides of any CMA and its highest rate (2.0) since 1992. However, when population differences were taken into account, homicide rates were higher in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Trois-Rivières, Greater Sudbury, Regina and Vancouver.

For the first time since recording began in 1981, the CMA of Québec reported no homicides. The rates in the smaller CMAs of St. John's, Kingston, Gatineau, Saguenay and St. Catherine's-Niagara were each below 1 victim per 100,000 population.

There were 35 fewer attempted murders in 2007, resulting in a 5% decline in the rate for this offence. Manitoba and British Columbia were the only provinces to report increases, up by 53% and 19% respectively. Although the rate of attempted murder has remained consistently higher than that of homicide since 1978, it has generally paralleled the gradual decline seen in homicide (Chart 3).

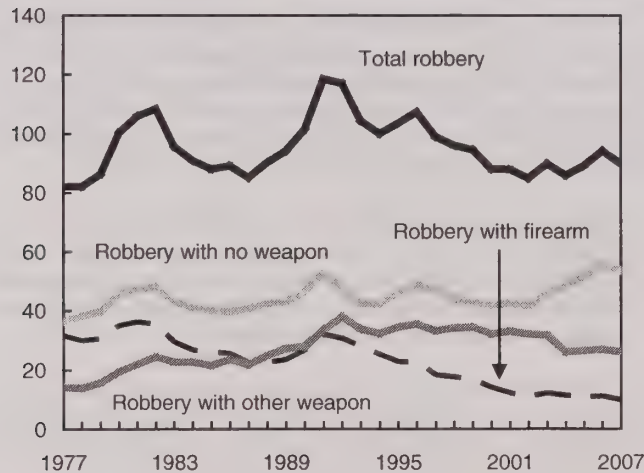
Firearm-related robberies reach a 30-year low

With about 30,000 incidents, the rate of robbery was 5% lower in 2007 than in 2006. In general, robbery rates declined throughout the 1990s and, despite annual fluctuations, have remained relatively stable since 2000 (Chart 5).

Chart 5

Robbery rate, Canada, 1977 to 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

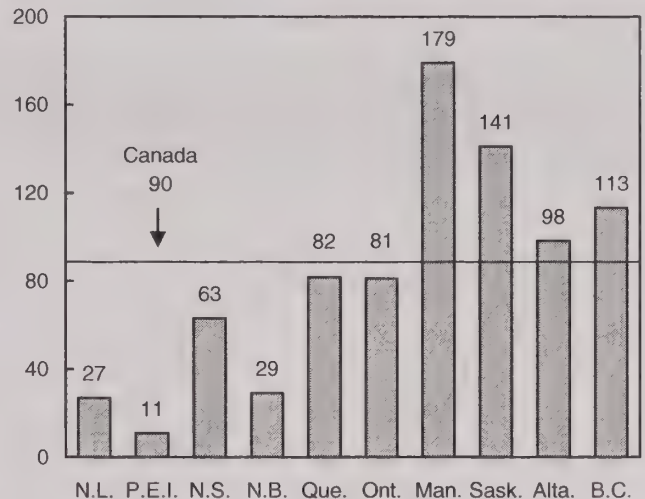
Declines in the rate of robbery in 2007 were reported in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador (+17%), Alberta (+5%), British Columbia (+3%) and New Brunswick (+1%). Of particular note was a 40% drop in the rate of robbery in Prince Edward Island and a 25% drop in Nova Scotia.

Led by Manitoba and Saskatchewan, robbery rates in the western provinces were well above the rest of Canada (Chart 6). Manitoba has reported the highest robbery rate since 1994, while Saskatchewan has reported the second highest rate since 2003.

Chart 6

Robbery rate by province, 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Most robberies in 2007 were committed without the use of a weapon (60%). The rate of robberies involving firearms, which accounted for about 11% of all robbery incidents, fell in all provinces except Manitoba and British Columbia. As a result, the national firearm-related robbery rate was at its lowest point since this information became available in 1977.

Property crime

Property-related offences at lowest level in nearly 40 years

In 2007, police-reported property offences dropped 8% from the year before and reached their lowest rate since 1969 (Table 1). Historically, property offences accounted for about two-thirds of all crime; however, beginning in the mid-1980s, the proportion began to shift. In 2007, property offences accounted for just under half (48%) of all criminal incidents.

The four most common types of property-related offences all declined in 2007: break and enter (-9%), theft of motor vehicle (-9%), theft under \$5,000 (-7%) and fraud (-6%) (Table 2). The only property-related offence category not to decrease in 2007 was theft over \$5,000 which remained stable.

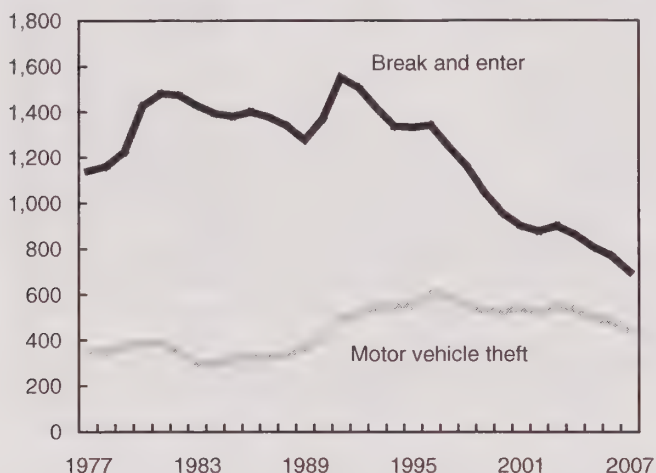
Break and enters reach lowest point in four decades

The 2007 rate of break and enter was at its lowest point in four decades and 55% lower than its peak in 1991 (Chart 7). Police reported about 231,000 break and enters, of which nearly 6 in 10 were residential. Another 30% were businesses and 11% were other locations such as schools, sheds and detached garages. Long-term data show that the rates for all three categories of break and enter have generally declined since the early 1990s.

Chart 7

Break and enter and motor vehicle theft rate, Canada, 1977 to 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

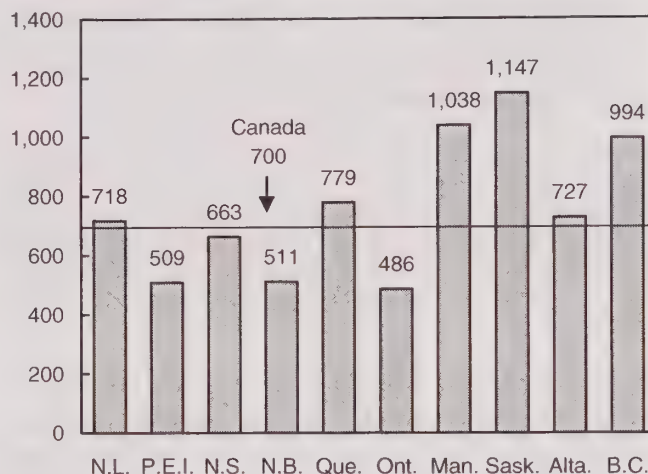
Declines in the rate of break and enter were reported in all provinces, ranging from 3% in Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba to 15% in New Brunswick. As has been the case for the past 10 years, Saskatchewan reported the highest rate of break and enter (Chart 8).

Some of the decrease in break and enters may be related to specialized policing programs as well as an increasing use of home security devices, such as burglar alarms, motion detectors and new locks/security bars (Gannon and Taylor-Butts, 2006). Increases in insurance deductibles could also be related to fewer break and enters being reported to police (Fedorowycz, 2004).

Chart 8

Break and enter rate by province, 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Motor vehicle thefts decrease in all provinces except PEI

While most crimes peaked in the early 1990s, motor vehicle theft climbed until 1996 and has gradually declined since, including a 9% drop in 2007 (Chart 7). Between 2006 and 2007, decreases were reported in every province except Prince Edward Island. The most substantial decline among the provinces occurred in Nova Scotia, down by 23%.

Part of the overall decrease in motor vehicle theft over the past 10 years may be due to such factors as increased use of anti-theft devices (e.g. car alarms, vehicle immobilizers), specialized enforcement teams within some police services and targeted initiatives, such as the "bait car" program.⁵

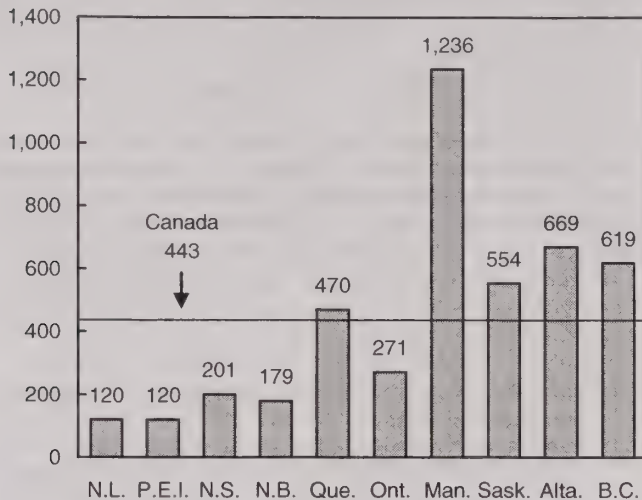
As has been the case for the past decade, the 2007 rate in Manitoba was the highest in the country, despite a 10% drop (Chart 9). About 86% of Manitoba's motor vehicle thefts occurred in the CMA of Winnipeg.⁶

5. Bait car programs use police-owned decoy vehicles that, if stolen, are monitored through surveillance and GPS tracking, enabling police to observe, follow and apprehend offenders.
6. It should be noted that approximately half of the vehicle thefts in Winnipeg in 2007 were "attempts", higher than the national average of about 15%. Both the decrease in the number of "completed" vehicle thefts in Winnipeg, as well as the increase in "attempted" thefts, may be attributed to the new provincial requirement for specific high-risk vehicles to be equipped with immobilizers, rendering these vehicles much more difficult to steal.

Chart 9

Motor vehicle theft rate by province, 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Other offences

Counterfeiting currency drops by half

"Other" *Criminal Code* offences represent a general catch-all category of crimes that are classified as neither violent nor property-related. There are four high-volume crime types included in this group, three of which remained relatively stable in 2007: mischief under \$5,000, bail violations, and disturbing the peace.

The fourth major category is counterfeiting currency. This offence is somewhat unique in that, for a relatively high-volume offence, it is subject to large year-to-year fluctuations. For example, between 2002 and 2004, the rate increased by 147%. Since then, the rate has declined by 73%, including a 54% drop between 2006 to 2007.

The large decrease in counterfeiting in recent years may be partially attributed to enhanced security features that make the replication of bills more difficult, increased education and awareness by merchants and retailers in detecting counterfeit bills, and to law enforcement efforts. In 2006, the RCMP partnered with the Bank of Canada and created strategically located enforcement teams to combat organized crime counterfeiting operations (Bank of Canada, 2007).

Drug and impaired driving offences increase in 2007

Drug crimes, including possession, trafficking, importing, exporting and production-related offences, fall under the authority of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and are not included in

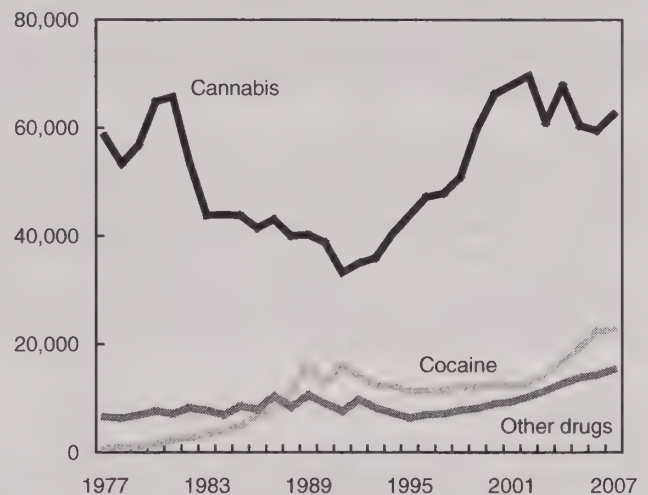
the calculation of the overall crime rate. Drug crime rates tend to vary considerably from year to year as police charging practices can be influenced by changes in local enforcement initiatives and available resources.

In 2007, there were about 101,000 drug offences reported to police, a 4% increase from 2006 (Table 5). Drug offences generally increased throughout the 1990s, and have been relatively stable since. Consistent with reporting rates since the early 1980s, the rate of drug offences was far higher in British Columbia than in any other province.

Chart 10

Drug offences, Canada, 1977 to 2007

rate per 100,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The overall rate of drug offences was driven by cannabis offences, which accounted for about 6 in 10 drug offences. Possession of cannabis, which comprised three-quarters of all cannabis offences in 2007, rose 6% (Chart 10). Following five consecutive increases, cocaine offences remained stable while other drug offences, such as heroin, crystal meth and ecstasy, were up by 6% (Table 5).

Similar to drug-related crimes, the number of impaired driving offences reported by police can be influenced by many factors including legislative changes, enforcement practices (e.g. increased use of roadside suspensions), shifts in demographics and changing attitudes on drinking and driving. Although the 2007 rate of impaired driving offences increased by 3%, the rate of this offence has been generally declining over the past 25 years.

Among the provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador (+25%) and Alberta (+19%) reported the most substantial increases in 2007. With a 4% increase, Saskatchewan reported the highest rate for the 16th straight year.

Youth crime⁷

Youth crime relatively stable since 1998

There were about 176,000 youth (aged 12 to 17 years) accused⁸ of a criminal offence in 2007 (Table 6). The rate of youth accused (the youth crime rate) decreased by 2% in 2007, following a 3% increase in 2006. Following substantial declines after peaking in 1991, the youth crime rate has remained relatively stable over the past decade (Chart 11).

As with crime in general, the highest rate of youth crime was in Saskatchewan. The rate in Saskatchewan was nearly double the rates reported in Manitoba and Nova Scotia, the next highest provinces.

In contrast to the pattern of the youth crime rate, the rate of violent youth crime has been steadily increasing since the mid-1980s⁹ (Chart 11). While the 2007 rate was stable compared to the previous year, it was double the rate from 20 years ago. The rise in violent crime can be largely attributed to increases in common assault, which comprise approximately 6 in 10 violent incidents committed by youth.

Following a record high in the youth homicide rate in 2006, the number of youth accused of homicide in 2007 decreased from 85 to 74, representing a 13% drop in the rate.¹⁰ Despite this decrease, the 2007 youth homicide rate was the second highest since 1961. The rates in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, reached record highs (Table 7). It is important to note that youth homicide rates can vary considerably from year-to-year due to the relatively small number of youth who commit this offence.

One of the key objectives of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), enacted in 2003, is to divert youth who have committed non-violent and less serious crimes away from the formal criminal justice system by encouraging the use of extrajudicial (non-court) measures (Department of Justice, 2003). These measures include taking no further action, informal police warnings, referrals to community programs, formal police cautions, Crown cautions and extrajudicial sanctions programs. In 2007, the rate of youth cleared by other means, such as diversion programs, dropped 4%.

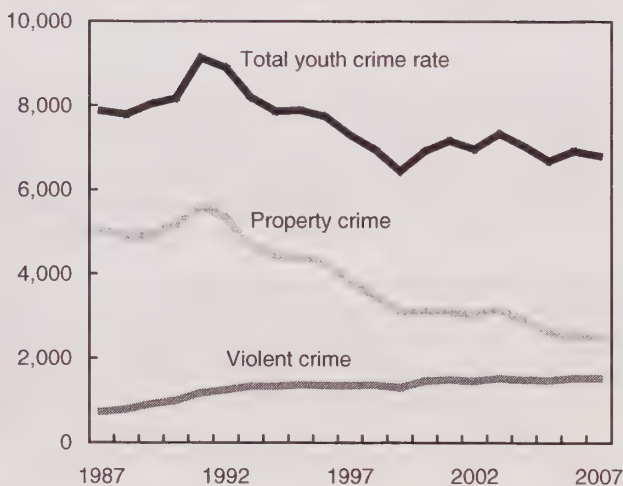
In 2007, the rate of youth against whom charges had been laid or recommended by police increased by 2%. Despite this increase, the proportion of youth charged or recommended for charging by police for property or "other" criminal offences has fallen from 54% in 2002 (pre-YCJA) to 40% in 2007. For serious violent crimes (excluding common assaults), about 7 in 10 youth were charged or recommended for charging by police in 2007, also lower than in 2002 (79%).

7. For a detailed analysis of 2006 youth crime in Canada, see Taylor-Butts and Bressan, 2008.
8. Includes youth formally charged or recommended to the Crown for charging as well as youth cleared by means other than the laying of a charge (e.g. extrajudicial sanctions). Also includes a small number of young persons under the age of 12 years.
9. Comparable youth crime data are available beginning in 1986 following the implementation of uniform jurisdictional age classifications in April 1985.
10. Persons under 12 years of age have been excluded and will therefore not match the youth homicide data presented in Tables 6 and 7.

Chart 11

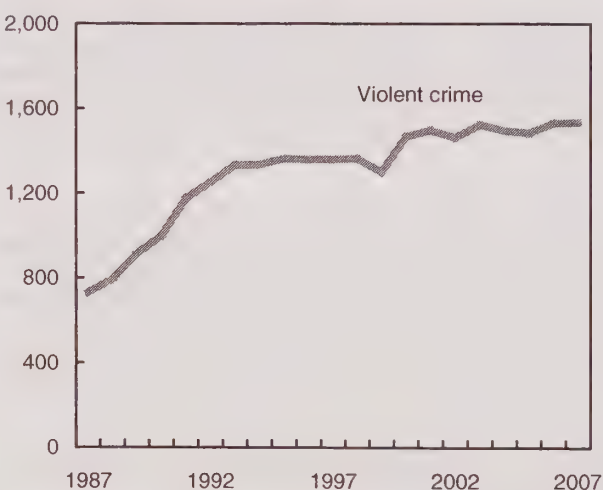
Youth accused, 1987 to 2007

rate per 100,000 youth population (12 to 17 years)



Youth accused of violent crime, 1987 to 2007

rate per 100,000 youth population (12 to 17 years)



Note: Comparable youth crime data are available beginning in 1986 following the implementation of uniform jurisdictional age classifications in April 1985.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Factors affecting crime rates

As mentioned periodically throughout this report, many factors can influence crime rates. These may include, but are certainly not limited to, local enforcement strategies, different reporting mechanisms among police services and various social and economic factors.

For example, a recent study examining patterns in crime data found that shifts in inflation were associated with changes in financially-motivated crimes (namely robbery, break and enter and motor vehicle theft) and that alcohol consumption and unemployment rates were correlated with homicide rates (Pottie-Bunge, Johnson and Baldé, 2005). Other studies have found an association between neighbourhood crime rates and income levels (Savoie, 2008).

Crime statistics can also be affected by changes in societal responses and perceptions of certain crimes (such as sexual assault or spousal violence) which can lead to differences in reporting rates to police. Similarly, changes to the criminal justice system, such as the introduction of a new offence, can impact the number of police-reported criminal incidents.

Differences in the reporting structures of police services can also influence crime rates. For example, some police services maintain call centres to receive and record criminal incidents, while others require victims to report crimes in person. The ease of public reporting can impact whether a criminal incident becomes known to police and subsequently reported to the CCJS through the UCR Survey.

Data source

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was established in 1962 with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey is a compilation of police-reported crimes that have been substantiated through investigation from all federal, provincial and municipal police services in Canada.

There are currently two versions of the UCR survey: aggregate and incident-based microdata. Data from the aggregate version are used in this report and include the number of actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by adult/youth breakdown) and youth not charged. It does not include victim or incident characteristics (which are available from the incident-based version). Coverage of the UCR aggregate data reflects virtually 100% of the total caseload for all police services in Canada.

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Table 1

Rates of *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada, 1962 to 2007

	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> incidents ¹		Violent crime		Property crime		Other <i>Criminal Code</i> incidents	
	rate	percent change	rate	percent change	rate	percent change	rate	percent change
1962	2,771	...	221	...	1,891	...	659	...
1963	3,022	9.0	249	13.0	2,047	8.2	726	10.1
1964	3,245	7.4	284	13.8	2,146	4.9	815	12.3
1965	3,199	-1.4	299	5.4	2,091	-2.6	809	-0.7
1966	3,511	9.8	347	15.9	2,258	8.0	907	12.0
1967	3,850	9.6	381	9.9	2,484	10.0	985	8.7
1968	4,336	12.6	423	11.0	2,826	13.8	1,087	10.3
1969	4,737	9.3	453	7.1	3,120	10.4	1,164	7.1
1970	5,212	10.0	481	6.2	3,515	12.6	1,217	4.6
1971	5,311	1.9	492	2.4	3,649	3.8	1,170	-3.9
1972	5,355	0.8	497	1.0	3,634	-0.4	1,224	4.6
1973	5,773	7.8	524	5.3	3,704	1.9	1,546	26.3
1974	6,388	10.6	553	5.6	4,151	12.1	1,684	8.9
1975	6,852	7.3	585	5.9	4,498	8.4	1,769	5.0
1976	6,984	1.9	584	-0.2	4,533	0.8	1,867	5.6
1977	6,971	-0.2	572	-2.0	4,466	-1.5	1,933	3.5
1978	7,154	2.6	580	1.4	4,579	2.5	1,995	3.2
1979	7,666	7.2	610	5.1	4,903	7.1	2,153	7.9
1980	8,343	8.8	636	4.3	5,444	11.0	2,263	5.1
1981	8,736	4.7	654	2.8	5,759	5.8	2,322	2.6
1982	8,773	0.4	671	2.7	5,840	1.4	2,262	-2.6
1983	8,470	-3.5	679	1.2	5,608	-4.0	2,182	-3.5
1984	8,387	-1.0	701	3.1	5,501	-1.9	2,185	0.1
1985	8,413	0.3	735	4.8	5,451	-0.9	2,227	1.9
1986	8,727	3.7	785	6.9	5,550	1.8	2,392	7.4
1987	8,957	2.6	829	5.7	5,553	0.1	2,575	7.6
1988	8,919	-0.4	868	4.7	5,439	-2.0	2,613	1.5
1989	8,892	-0.3	911	5.0	5,289	-2.7	2,692	3.0
1990	9,485	6.7	973	6.8	5,612	6.1	2,900	7.8
1991	10,342	9.0	1,059	8.9	6,160	9.8	3,122	7.7
1992	10,040	-2.9	1,084	2.3	5,904	-4.2	3,052	-2.3
1993	9,538	-5.0	1,082	-0.2	5,575	-5.6	2,881	-5.6
1994	9,125	-4.3	1,047	-3.2	5,257	-5.7	2,821	-2.1
1995	9,008	-1.3	1,009	-3.7	5,292	0.7	2,707	-4.0
1996	8,932	-0.8	1,002	-0.7	5,274	-0.3	2,656	-1.9
1997	8,475	-5.1	993	-0.9	4,880	-7.5	2,603	-2.0
1998	8,161	-3.7	982	-1.1	4,569	-6.4	2,610	0.3
1999	7,752	-5.0	958	-2.4	4,276	-6.4	2,518	-3.5
2000	7,666	-1.1	984	2.7	4,081	-4.6	2,601	3.3
2001	7,655	-0.1	984	-0.1	4,004	-1.9	2,668	2.6
2002	7,706	0.7	969	-1.5	3,973	-0.8	2,764	3.6
2003	8,142	5.7	965	-0.4	4,121	3.7	3,057	10.6
2004	8,161	0.2	944	-2.1	3,969	-3.7	3,247	6.2
2005	7,769	-4.8	949	0.5	3,736	-5.9	3,085	-5.0
2006 ^r	7,543	-2.9	954	0.5	3,596	-3.7	2,993	-3.0
2007	6,984	-7.4	930	-2.5	3,320	-7.7	2,734	-8.6

... not applicable

^r revised

1. The crime rate is based upon total *Criminal Code* incidents, excluding traffic offences and other federal statute violations such as drug offences.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: estimates are final intercensal from 1961 to 1970; revised intercensal from 1971 to 1995; final intercensal from 1996 to 2000; final postcensal from 2001 to 2004; updated postcensal for 2005 and 2006 and preliminary postcensal for 2007. Percent change based on unrounded rates and are in comparison to the previous year's rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2

Selected *Criminal Code* incidents, by most serious offence, Canada, 2006 and 2007

	2006 ^r		2007		Percent change in rate 2006 to 2007	Percent change in rate 1998 to 2007
	number	rate	number	rate	percent	percent
Population	32,649,482		32,976,026		...	...
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excluding traffic) - crime rate	2,462,641	7,543	2,302,900	6,984	-7.4	-14.4
Violent crime	311,419	954	306,559	930	-2.5	-5.3
Homicide	606	1.9	594	1.8	-3.0	-2.6
Attempted murder	837	2.6	802	2.4	-5.1	-1.6
Robbery	30,752	94	29,600	90	-4.7	-6.5
Firearms	3,678	11	3,281	10	-11.7	-43.6
Other weapons	8,795	27	8,619	26	-3.0	-23.7
No weapons	18,279	56	17,700	54	-4.1	21.6
Sexual assault (levels 1,2,3)	22,245	68	21,449	65	-4.5	-23.2
Level 1	21,675	66	20,933	63	-4.4	-22.8
Level 2 - weapon	389	1	375	1	-4.6	-35.2
Level 3 - aggravated	181	1	141	0	-22.9	-41.1
Other sexual offences	2,758	8	2,784	8	-0.1	-26.1
Assault (levels 1,2,3)	240,629	737	236,934	719	-2.5	-3.2
Level 1	183,920	563	179,586	545	-3.3	-10.7
Level 2 - weapon/causing bodily harm	53,357	163	53,945	164	0.1	32.3
Level 3 - aggravated	3,352	10	3,403	10	0.5	18.6
Other assaults	13,075	40	13,917	42	5.4	4.8
Abduction	517	2	479	1	-8.3	-47.2
Property crime	1,174,068	3,596	1,094,703	3,320	-7.7	-27.3
Breaking and entering	251,361	770	230,920	700	-9.0	-39.8
Residential	147,230	451	135,109	410	-9.1	-44.2
Business	74,937	230	69,794	212	-7.8	-31.1
Other	29,194	89	26,017	79	-11.8	-35.4
Motor vehicle theft	158,638	486	146,142	443	-8.8	-19.4
Theft over \$5,000	17,094	52	17,369	53	0.6	-32.7
Theft \$5,000 and under	617,818	1,892	579,211	1,756	-7.2	-25.8
Possession of stolen goods	35,982	110	32,775	99	-9.8	2.8
Fraud	93,175	285	88,286	268	-6.2	-14.8
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> incidents	977,154	2,993	901,638	2,734	-8.6	4.8
Mischief	379,043	1,161	375,816	1,140	-1.8	5.1
Counterfeiting currency	119,405	366	55,517	168	-54.0	27.5
Bail violations	108,810	333	110,115	334	0.2	37.9
Disturbing the peace ¹	117,166	359	116,978	355	-1.1	63.3
Offensive weapons	19,344	59	18,709	57	-4.2	2.0
Prostitution	5,679	17	4,724	14	-17.6	-27.6
Arson	13,594	42	13,202	40	-3.8	-6.7
Forcible confinement/kidnapping	4,509	14	4,595	14	0.9	121.5
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> (not listed above)	209,604	642	201,982	613	-4.6	-24.4

... not applicable

^r revised

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Note that certain police services clear some minor offences, such as disturb the peace, under a municipal by-law or provincial statute offence rather than under the *Criminal Code*.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2006 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2007. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 3

Selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2007

	Homicide			Attempted murder			Sexual assault (levels 1,2,3)			Assault (levels 2 and 3)		
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	3	0.6	-56.8	1	0.2	-79.9	411	81	20.0	692	137	5.4
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0	-100.0	1	0.7	-50.2	73	53	21.1	106	76	-16.2
Nova Scotia	13	1.4	-18.7	25	2.7	-3.8	702	75	-12.7	1,567	168	-2.7
New Brunswick	8	1.1	14.2	4	0.5	-55.6	492	66	-5.8	910	121	3.8
Quebec	90	1.2	-3.9	233	3.0	-0.6	4,346	56	-14.3	11,256	146	3.2
Ontario	201	1.6	1.8	282	2.2	-12.0	7,230	56	-0.2	16,436	128	-2.8
Manitoba	62	5.2	57.9	37	3.1	53.1	1,248	105	-4.6	4,116	347	-5.3
Saskatchewan	30	3.0	-29.2	41	4.1	-21.9	1,211	121	-2.3	4,431	444	5.1
Alberta	88	2.5	-10.1	66	1.9	-15.7	2,233	64	-0.5	7,359	212	0.0
British Columbia	88	2.0	-19.6	106	2.4	18.8	3,025	69	-6.1	9,538	218	1.0
Yukon	2	6.5	...	0	0.0	...	60	194	2.4	184	594	18.0
Northwest Territories	2	4.7	...	2	4.7	...	210	493	30.5	396	929	2.0
Nunavut	7	22.5	242.0	4	12.9	-2.3	208	669	11.7	357	1,147	4.1
Canada	594	1.8	-3.0	802	2.4	-5.1	21,449	65	-4.5	57,348	174	0.1
	Assault (level 1)			Robbery			Total violent crime			Break and enter		
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,427	677	11.5	137	27	16.9	4,806	949	11.1	3,634	718	-2.5
Prince Edward Island	703	507	-3.9	15	11	-40.3	920	664	-5.8	706	509	-6.0
Nova Scotia	6,632	710	-5.0	590	63	-25.4	9,948	1,065	-6.3	6,192	663	-9.7
New Brunswick	4,326	577	-2.3	219	29	1.3	6,384	851	-0.1	3,834	511	-15.0
Quebec	30,167	392	-1.9	6,290	82	-10.7	56,538	734	-2.8	59,967	779	-10.2
Ontario	53,440	417	-4.1	10,393	81	-6.4	94,029	734	-3.5	62,217	486	-11.0
Manitoba	9,741	821	-5.9	2,125	179	-1.8	17,952	1,513	-5.0	12,316	1,038	-3.3
Saskatchewan	12,160	1,220	-1.6	1,407	141	-5.6	20,130	2,019	-0.5	11,438	1,147	-6.8
Alberta	23,447	675	-1.6	3,409	98	4.7	38,369	1,104	-0.7	25,251	727	-5.9
British Columbia	31,035	709	-7.2	4,963	113	2.9	51,333	1,172	-3.6	43,552	994	-8.4
Yukon	634	2,046	-5.3	15	48	-11.1	906	2,924	-2.7	341	1,100	-25.3
Northwest Territories	2,320	5,441	11.5	25	59	30.9	3,015	7,071	10.4	886	2,078	-10.4
Nunavut	1,554	4,995	2.7	12	39	-9.8	2,229	7,164	4.6	586	1,883	-5.0
Canada	179,586	545	-3.3	29,600	90	-4.7	306,559	930	-2.5	230,920	700	-9.0
	Motor vehicle theft ¹			Total property crime			Total other <i>Criminal Code</i>			Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excluding traffic)		
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	606	120	-8.2	11,557	2,283	-3.4	15,766	3,114	6.3	32,129	6,346	3.2
Prince Edward Island	167	120	6.6	3,687	2,660	-12.0	3,686	2,659	-13.7	8,293	5,982	-12.1
Nova Scotia	1,875	201	-23.3	28,700	3,072	-12.5	30,998	3,318	-3.4	69,646	7,456	-7.7
New Brunswick	1,343	179	-3.0	17,284	2,305	-9.7	17,582	2,345	-9.4	41,250	5,502	-8.2
Quebec	36,216	470	-6.8	220,934	2,869	-7.9	131,964	1,714	-16.1	409,436	5,317	-10.1
Ontario	34,737	271	-10.2	337,432	2,635	-6.9	237,878	1,858	-12.8	669,339	5,228	-8.6
Manitoba	14,671	1,236	-9.9	52,293	4,407	-11.0	58,265	4,910	-4.2	128,510	10,829	-7.2
Saskatchewan	5,526	554	-12.1	43,002	4,314	-9.5	68,706	6,892	-0.2	131,838	13,225	-3.5
Alberta	23,248	669	-7.9	147,953	4,259	-5.4	134,556	3,873	-2.8	320,878	9,237	-3.8
British Columbia	27,112	619	-9.0	226,750	5,177	-8.8	178,925	4,085	-9.2	457,008	10,433	-8.4
Yukon	134	432	-3.6	1,354	4,369	-14.5	4,346	14,024	12.1	6,606	21,317	3.4
Northwest Territories	300	704	-23.3	2,471	5,795	-8.3	13,173	30,896	8.5	18,659	43,762	6.2
Nunavut	207	665	5.3	1,286	4,133	-4.2	5,793	18,619	-8.9	9,308	29,917	-5.3
Canada	146,142	443	-8.8	1,094,703	3,320	-7.7	901,638	2,734	-8.6	2,302,900	6,984	-7.4

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. It should be noted that approximately half of the vehicle thefts in Winnipeg in 2007 were "attempts", higher than the national average of about 15%. Both the decrease in the number of "completed" vehicle thefts in Winnipeg, as well as the increase in "attempted" thefts, may be attributed to the new provincial requirement for specific high-risk vehicles to be equipped with immobilizers, rendering these vehicles much more difficult to steal.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal for 2007. Percent change based on unrounded rates and are in comparison to the previous year's rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 4

Rates of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, by census metropolitan area (CMA),¹ Canada, 2007

	Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic)	percent change 2006 to 2007	Total violent offences	Homicide	Robbery	Total property offences	Break and enter	Motor vehicle theft ²	Total other <i>Criminal Code</i>
	rate					rate			
500,000 and over population									
Winnipeg	9,644	-12.9	1,082	3.6	268	5,090	1,022	1,714	3,471
Edmonton	9,572	-5.4	1,031	3.3	157	5,166	817	832	3,375
Vancouver	9,136	-11.3	989	2.4	155	5,100	995	630	3,047
Calgary	6,202	-8.4	712	3.1	106	3,825	602	639	1,665
Montréal	5,958	-13.8	777	1.6	133	3,282	755	601	1,899
Hamilton	5,511	-2.2	776	1.6	116	2,985	594	481	1,750
Ottawa ³	5,457	-5.1	599	1.6	80	2,915	451	264	1,943
Québec	4,524	-8.0	645	0.0	54	2,579	716	216	1,301
Toronto	4,461	-11.0	709	2.0	113	2,307	362	279	1,445
100,000 to less than 500,000 population									
Regina	11,827	-5.5	1,478	2.5	225	5,703	1,618	735	4,646
Saskatoon	11,560	-5.2	1,612	3.6	272	4,520	899	616	5,428
Abbotsford	10,341	-8.2	944	1.2	103	5,868	1,263	1,001	3,529
Victoria	9,335	-8.5	911	1.2	72	4,941	801	355	3,483
Thunder Bay	8,819	-2.8	1,335	1.6	142	3,942	878	233	3,542
Saint John ⁴	8,292	5.4	1,431	2.0	59	3,441	649	168	3,420
Halifax	7,954	-8.5	1,145	1.8	119	3,774	670	269	3,035
St. John's ⁴	7,325	8.6	926	0.5	62	3,689	1,028	210	2,710
London	7,296	-10.2	730	1.3	61	3,867	667	489	2,699
Windsor	6,138	-9.3	644	1.2	57	3,321	730	231	2,174
Kingston	5,970	-11.7	689	0.7	37	3,001	546	176	2,280
Gatineau ⁵	5,718	1.0	796	0.7	44	2,902	852	294	2,020
St. Catharines-Niagara	5,711	-4.6	571	0.7	65	3,206	722	253	1,934
Greater Sudbury	5,627	-9.3	888	2.5	72	2,691	580	226	2,048
Kitchener	4,906	-16.8	565	1.4	54	2,721	487	239	1,620
Sherbrooke	4,831	-10.0	503	1.3	60	2,512	694	350	1,816
Trois-Rivières	4,478	-8.2	599	2.7	33	2,391	636	363	1,488
Saguenay	4,398	8.1	720	0.7	41	2,107	629	265	1,572
Canada	6,984	-7.4	930	1.8	90	3,320	700	443	2,734

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Note that a CMA typically comprises more than one police service and that populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. Also note that the Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

2. It should be noted that approximately half of the vehicle thefts in Winnipeg in 2007 were "attempts", higher than the national average of about 15%. Both the decrease in the number of "completed" vehicle thefts in Winnipeg, as well as the increase in "attempted" thefts, may be attributed to the new provincial requirement for specific high-risk vehicles to be equipped with immobilizers, rendering these vehicles much more difficult to steal.

3. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

4. Part of the 2007 increase in crime in Saint John and St. John's can be attributed to changes in police reporting practices rather than actual increases in criminal activity.

5. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 5

Drug and impaired driving incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2007

	Cannabis								
	Cannabis possession			Other cannabis ¹			Total cannabis		
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	424	84	33.5	200	40	17.1	624	123	27.7
Prince Edward Island	65	47	-4.8	49	35	1.6	114	82	-2.1
Nova Scotia	1,216	130	26.0	587	63	17.7	1,803	193	23.2
New Brunswick	859	115	1.6	417	56	-11.0	1,276	170	-2.9
Quebec	9,457	123	1.8	4,737	62	-7.9	14,194	184	-1.6
Ontario	14,830	116	3.0	3,823	30	-7.2	18,653	146	0.7
Manitoba	854	72	14.5	555	47	8.3	1,409	119	11.9
Saskatchewan	1,588	159	3.3	374	38	7.1	1,962	197	4.0
Alberta	3,989	115	4.1	887	26	-2.0	4,876	140	3.0
British Columbia	13,443	307	10.9	3,591	82	9.6	17,034	389	10.6
Yukon	97	313	39.6	24	77	-24.5	121	390	19.5
Northwest Territories	213	500	32.4	91	213	25.7	304	713	30.3
Nunavut	66	212	-5.2	74	238	-43.1	140	450	-29.9
Canada	47,101	143	6.1	15,409	47	-2.1	62,510	190	4.0

	Cocaine			Other drugs ²			Total drugs			Impaired driving ³		
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	142	28	60.7	91	18	6.6	857	169	29.4	1,389	274	25.3
Prince Edward Island	45	32	72.3	38	27	-9.9	197	142	6.6	599	432	3.5
Nova Scotia	352	38	19.8	351	38	10.8	2,506	268	20.8	2,550	273	-5.4
New Brunswick	256	34	33.2	342	46	9.5	1,874	250	3.1	2,092	279	9.0
Quebec	2,275	30	-4.3	3,888	50	6.5	20,357	264	-0.5	16,208	210	-1.5
Ontario	7,493	59	-0.6	4,872	38	-6.4	31,018	242	-0.8	17,846	139	-0.2
Manitoba	780	66	29.3	277	23	-19.6	2,466	208	11.8	2,993	252	3.6
Saskatchewan	508	51	7.3	381	38	6.3	2,851	286	4.9	5,431	545	4.4
Alberta	3,272	94	-1.7	944	27	-12.2	9,092	262	-0.5	14,439	416	18.7
British Columbia	7,505	171	-1.5	4,093	93	37.9	28,632	654	10.2	14,569	333	-2.0
Yukon	66	213	146.2	22	71	38.5	209	674	45.2	347	1,120	49.4
Northwest Territories	115	270	25.7	37	87	41.5	456	1,069	29.9	768	1,801	4.5
Nunavut	10	32	225.7	10	32	-18.6	160	514	-25.6	282	906	-0.2
Canada	22,819	69	0.9	15,346	47	6.5	100,675	305	3.6	79,513	241	3.4

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Other cannabis includes trafficking, importation and production.

2. Includes other drugs such as heroin, crystal meth and ecstasy.

3. Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal for 2007. Percent change based on unrounded rates and are in comparison to the previous year's rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 6

Youth accused^{1,2} of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, by most serious offence, Canada, 2006 and 2007

	2006				2007				Percent change in rate 2006 to 2007
	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ³	Total number	Total rate	Number charged	Number cleared otherwise ³	Total number	Total rate	
		number		rate		number		rate	
Population (aged 12 to 17)		2,585,745				2,586,808			
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excluding traffic) - youth crime rate	73,871	104,981	178,852	6,917	75,622	100,553	176,175	6,811	-1.5
Violent crime	20,468	19,108	39,576	1,531	21,388	18,359	39,747	1,537	0.4
Homicide ⁴	84	2	86	3.3	74	3	77	3.0	-10.5
Attempted murder	70	6	76	2.9	50	0	50	1.9	-34.2
Robbery	3,726	851	4,577	177	4,099	595	4,694	181	2.5
Firearms	320	48	368	14	262	26	288	11	-21.8
Other weapons	1,074	149	1,223	47	1,187	89	1,276	49	4.3
No weapons	2,332	654	2,986	115	2,650	480	3,130	121	4.8
Sexual assault (levels 1,2,3)	1,209	986	2,195	85	1,181	1,026	2,207	85	0.5
Level 1	1,185	967	2,152	83	1,144	1,012	2,156	83	0.1
Level 2 - weapon	23	13	36	1	34	14	48	2	33.3
Level 3 - aggravated	1	6	7	0	3	0	3	0	-57.2
Other sexual offences	138	160	298	12	138	164	302	12	1.3
Assault (levels 1,2,3)	14,083	16,802	30,885	1,194	14,609	16,233	30,842	1,192	-0.2
Level 1	8,849	14,152	23,001	890	9,015	13,580	22,595	873	-1.8
Level 2 - weapon/causing bodily harm	4,800	2,608	7,408	286	5,132	2,613	7,745	299	4.5
Level 3 - aggravated	434	42	476	18	462	40	502	19	5.4
Other assaults	1,153	296	1,449	56	1,235	336	1,571	61	8.4
Abduction	5	5	10	0	2	2	4	0	-60.0
Property crime	25,778	40,425	66,203	2,560	25,266	39,832	65,098	2,517	-1.7
Breaking and entering	7,579	5,604	13,183	510	7,433	5,403	12,836	496	-2.7
Residential	4,457	3,238	7,695	298	4,251	3,129	7,380	285	-4.1
Business	2,204	1,431	3,635	141	2,202	1,344	3,546	137	-2.5
Other	918	935	1,853	72	980	930	1,910	74	3.0
Motor vehicle theft	2,961	2,153	5,114	198	2,489	1,975	4,464	173	-12.7
Theft over \$5,000	161	159	320	12	167	120	287	11	-10.3
Theft \$5,000 and under	8,972	28,102	37,074	1,434	9,308	28,037	37,345	1,444	0.7
Possession of stolen goods	4,994	3,085	8,079	312	4,794	3,018	7,812	302	-3.3
Fraud	1,111	1,322	2,433	94	1,075	1,279	2,354	91	-3.3
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	27,625	45,448	73,073	2,826	28,968	42,362	71,330	2,757	-2.4
Mischief	5,690	21,474	27,164	1,051	6,308	20,455	26,763	1,035	-1.5
Counterfeiting currency	108	147	255	10	52	114	166	6	-34.9
Bail violations	11,418	1,329	12,747	493	11,993	1,217	13,210	511	3.6
Disturbing the peace	542	8,295	8,837	342	636	7,241	7,877	305	-10.9
Offensive weapons	1,788	1,869	3,657	141	1,756	1,767	3,523	136	-3.7
Prostitution	22	26	48	2	21	13	34	1	-29.2
Arson	513	1,009	1,522	59	613	933	1,546	60	1.5
Forcible confinement/kidnapping	275	39	314	12	271	46	317	12	0.9
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> (not listed above)	7,269	11,260	18,529	717	7,318	10,576	17,894	692	-3.5

1. Figures presented here include a small number of accused under the age of 12.

2. Youth accused equals youth cleared by charge and youth cleared otherwise (e.g. application of extrajudicial measures).

3. An incident is "cleared otherwise" when police have identified at least one accused and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge in connection with the incident, but the accused is processed by other means. In the case of youths, this could include formal measures such as a Crown caution or extrajudicial sanctions, or informal measures such as a police warning or diversion to a community program.

4. Homicide data presented in this table include 1 accused person in 2006 and 3 accused persons in 2007 under the age of 12 years, whereas the text analysis refers to accused aged 12 to 17 years.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2006 and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2007.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 7

Youth accused^{1,2} of selected *Criminal Code* incidents, Canada and the provinces/territories, 2007

	Homicide ³			Attempted murder			Sexual assault (levels 1,2,3)			Assault (levels 2 and 3)		
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0.0	...	0	0.0	...	31	83	3.2	123	329	3.2
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0	...	0	0.0	...	9	77	-8.9	20	172	-19.0
Nova Scotia	3	4.2	...	4	5.7	...	69	98	21.3	328	464	31.6
New Brunswick	0	0.0	...	0	0.0	...	64	114	10.0	156	278	4.1
Quebec	4	0.7	...	4	0.7	...	526	90	0.3	1,492	257	16.5
Ontario	16	1.6	...	25	2.4	...	871	85	6.3	2,629	257	1.5
Manitoba	33	32.1	...	9	8.8	...	109	106	-3.2	753	733	-0.2
Saskatchewan	16	18.2	...	5	5.7	...	118	134	2.0	786	892	13.4
Alberta	5	1.8	...	1	0.4	...	196	70	-14.7	994	357	3.3
British Columbia	0	0.0	...	1	0.3	...	170	52	-16.7	855	262	-10.3
Yukon	0	0.0	...	0	0.0	...	2	76	-77.3	27	1,020	10.4
Northwest Territories	0	0.0	...	0	0.0	...	23	548	157.0	56	1,335	25.1
Nunavut	0	0.0	...	1	26.2	...	19	498	19.2	28	734	-22.0
Canada	77	3.0	-10.5	50	1.9	-34.2	2,207	85	0.5	8,247	319	4.6
	Assault (level 1)			Robbery			Total violent crime			Break and enter		
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	519	1,388	18.0	16	43	50.2	715	1,912	16.1	350	936	-20.9
Prince Edward Island	108	927	-3.2	4	34	102.5	144	1,236	-5.9	39	335	-61.3
Nova Scotia	1,025	1,451	-9.5	113	160	5.7	1,598	2,262	-0.2	534	756	-0.8
New Brunswick	740	1,317	22.4	23	41	22.8	1,032	1,837	18.1	294	523	-23.9
Quebec	3,727	641	1.8	553	95	-17.9	6,720	1,156	3.5	1,964	338	-1.7
Ontario	7,945	776	-4.0	2,536	248	4.6	14,717	1,438	-0.7	3,818	373	-1.0
Manitoba	1,496	1,455	-2.1	248	241	-5.1	2,735	2,661	-2.0	1,084	1,055	4.2
Saskatchewan	1,716	1,947	4.5	363	412	-0.3	3,140	3,562	6.5	1,717	1,948	1.0
Alberta	2,725	978	-1.6	431	155	24.1	4,542	1,630	0.7	1,400	502	-0.4
British Columbia	2,151	660	-7.8	396	122	11.6	3,768	1,157	-7.9	1,132	347	4.5
Yukon	72	2,720	-9.1	2	76	-70.8	107	4,042	-13.8	72	2,720	3.7
Northwest Territories	229	5,460	-11.1	5	119	0.5	321	7,654	-1.9	213	5,079	-29.5
Nunavut	142	3,721	-7.5	4	105	-42.7	208	5,451	-4.3	219	5,739	-4.9
Canada	22,595	873	-1.8	4,694	181	2.5	39,747	1,537	0.4	12,836	496	-2.7
	Motor vehicle theft			Total property crime			Total other <i>Criminal Code</i>			Total <i>Criminal Code</i> (excluding traffic)		
	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate	number	rate	percent change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	55	147	-40.2	1,037	2,773	-8.9	1,605	4,292	0.9	3,357	8,977	0.4
Prince Edward Island	23	197	-31.5	295	2,533	-33.3	384	3,297	-21.9	823	7,066	-24.3
Nova Scotia	155	219	-20.2	2,477	3,507	-6.2	3,496	4,950	-3.8	7,571	10,719	-3.9
New Brunswick	80	142	-2.3	1,521	2,708	1.7	2,179	3,879	8.2	4,732	8,424	8.0
Quebec	789	136	-9.7	9,016	1,551	1.6	6,913	1,189	2.5	22,649	3,897	2.4
Ontario	1,115	109	-3.2	25,064	2,449	-1.4	21,001	2,052	-1.4	60,782	5,938	-1.2
Manitoba	425	413	-14.9	3,485	3,390	-1.3	4,926	4,792	-4.3	11,146	10,843	-2.8
Saskatchewan	563	639	-16.3	5,316	6,031	-6.0	9,499	10,777	6.5	17,955	20,371	2.4
Alberta	732	263	-15.3	9,114	3,270	5.9	10,604	3,805	-7.4	24,260	8,705	-1.3
British Columbia	352	108	-29.7	6,664	2,046	-6.5	8,635	2,651	-11.6	19,067	5,853	-9.1
Yukon	19	718	29.5	159	6,007	-3.8	447	16,887	14.0	713	26,936	4.6
Northwest Territories	81	1,931	-0.7	508	12,113	-19.4	1,153	27,492	20.3	1,982	47,258	3.4
Nunavut	75	1,965	60.1	442	11,583	2.0	488	12,788	-10.2	1,138	29,822	-4.7
Canada	4,464	173	-12.7	65,098	2,517	-1.7	71,330	2,757	-2.4	176,175	6,811	-1.5

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Figures presented here include a small number of accused under the age of 12.

2. Youth accused equals youth cleared by charge and youth cleared otherwise (e.g. extrajudicial sanctions).

3. Homicide data presented in this table include 1 accused person in 2006 and 3 accused persons in 2007 under the age of 12 years, whereas the text analysis refers to accused aged 12 to 17 years.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal for 2007. Percent change based on unrounded rates and are in comparison to the previous year's rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Youth custody and community services in Canada, 2005/2006

by Shelly Milligan

Highlights¹

- In 2005/2006, the third year following the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), there were 3,724 youth admitted to sentenced custody, 14% fewer than the previous year and 18% fewer than in 2003/2004, the fiscal year in which the YCJA was implemented. Declines occurred in both secure and open custody admissions.
- There were 13,681 youth admitted to remand (meaning custody while awaiting trial or sentencing) which was an increase of 2% from the previous year.
- There were 12,550 admissions to probation in 2005/2006, marking a 2% decline from the previous year and a 24% decrease since the implementation of the YCJA in 2003/2004. Probation continued to account for 37% of all admissions to youth correctional services programs.
- Compared to years prior to the implementation of the YCJA, 16- to 17-year-olds accounted for a larger proportion of youth admitted to sentenced custody. They accounted for 69% of youth admitted to sentenced custody in 2005/2006, compared to 53% in 2001/2002, the earliest comparable trend year prior to the implementation of the YCJA. The largest rise in their representation occurred in 2003/2004, the first year of the YCJA.
- The proportion of youth admitted to sentenced custody for property offences decreased in 2005/2006, and no longer account for the largest proportion of admissions to sentenced custody. According to data from 6 jurisdictions, 26% of admissions to sentenced custody in 2005/2006 were for property offences, compared to 36% in 2001/2002. This change is largely a result of considerable decreases in the number of admissions to sentenced custody for property offences.
- Compared to years prior to the implementation of the YCJA, a greater proportion of youth spent longer periods of time in sentenced custody. In 2005/2006, 43% of youth spent less than 1 month in custody compared to 50% in 2001/2002. Further in 2005/2006, 47% spent more than 1 month but less than 6 months, compared to 42% in 2001/2002.
- There were approximately 7,500 Aboriginal youth admitted to either custody or probation in 2005/2006. Aboriginal youth represented 31% of admissions to sentenced custody, 23% of admissions to remand and 22% of admissions to probation, yet accounted for 6% of youth in Canada.



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Introduction

Youth correctional services across Canada are the responsibility of the provincial/territorial governments but are subject to the provisions in the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)*. The *YCJA* was developed in 1999 and enacted on April 1, 2003 as part of the new strategy for youth justice put forth by Canada's Department of Justice. This new strategy provides a more inclusive framework which focuses on public awareness, crime prevention, education, child welfare, health, family and the community. This strategy is reflected in the *YCJA* with its concentration on integrating all areas of young peoples' lives including their mental health, education and welfare, while placing emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration as well as the long-term protection of the public (Tustin and Lutes, 2006). A central component of the *YCJA*, as stated in the Preamble, is the mandate that the youth justice system "reserve its most serious intervention for the most serious crimes". Essentially, the *YCJA* is "an attempt to find a ... balance on youth justice issues" (Bala, 2003) by including provisions that would ensure that the most serious offenders serve longer sentences, while youth who have committed less serious offences are diverted from youth courts and custodial facilities to community correctional services. The introduction of the *YCJA* represented a significant change in the way the Canadian criminal justice system processes young persons, and 2005/2006 marked the third year since its implementation.

Providing information on the number and characteristics of youth admitted to and released from youth correctional services allows those creating policy and programming for young offenders to monitor the extent to which the various programs are being used and by whom. In addition, this information allows the public to understand the use of youth correctional services. This *Juristat* provides such information in three ways. The first part of this *Juristat* provides a statistical overview of the youth corrections population (i.e., 12- to 17-year-olds) in Canada for 2005/2006, the most recent year of data. The second part presents data on youth corrections over time to examine how correctional services and the characteristics of young offenders in the system may have changed compared to years prior to and since the implementation of the *YCJA*. The third part of this *Juristat* provides information on the average counts of youth in custody and community services and includes the rate at which Canada incarcerates young offenders.

Youth correctional services, 2005/2006

Youth correctional services include both custodial and community supervision programs. Custodial supervision is comprised of sentenced custody, which includes both open and secure custody,² and remand. Remand is the holding of a young person temporarily in custody while he or she awaits trial or sentencing. Community supervision consists of the following programs: probation and *YCJA* sentences which encompasses the community portion of a custody and supervision order, and the deferred custody and supervision order.³ Community supervision programs often include placing a number of restrictions on the young person. Community supervision orders are sometimes given with other sanctions and, at a minimum, require the young person to keep the peace, be of good behaviour, report to correctional personnel and appear before the court as required.

Number of youth admitted to custody and community supervision programs declined in 2005/2006

The total number of admissions to youth correctional services in the 7 jurisdictions that reported complete data in 2005/2006 declined by 2% (Table 1).⁴ This is consistent with one of the primary objectives of the *YCJA* which is to reserve the use of custody for the most serious offenders while diverting the minor offenders. This overall decrease in admissions to youth correctional services also corresponds to a decrease in the number of youth appearing in court.⁵ Decreases occurred in both custodial (-2%) and community supervision (-3%) programs. Admissions to sentenced custody, which includes both secure and open custody, declined by 14% from the previous year.⁶ However, the number of admissions to remand, meaning custody while awaiting trial or sentencing, increased by 2%.⁷ In addition, community supervision programs experienced declines in both

probation (-2%) and YCJA sentences (i.e., the community portion of a custody and supervision order and the deferred custody and supervision order) (-4%).

The number of youth admitted to sentenced custody dropped in most jurisdictions

Sentenced custody is the most serious sentence that youth may receive. The YCJA allows a young person to be sentenced to custody only if he or she has committed a serious violent offence; has not complied with non-custodial sentences; has committed an offence for which an adult would be liable to imprisonment for more than two years and has a history that indicates a pattern of findings of guilt; or, in exceptional cases where the young person has committed an indictable offence, the aggravating circumstances of which are such that a non-custodial sentence would be inconsistent with the purposes and principles of sentencing (s.39, YCJA).

In 2005/2006, 3,724 youth were admitted to sentenced custody in 7 reporting jurisdictions, with 1,902 (51%) of these youth being admitted to secure custody and 1,822 (49%) being admitted to open custody. Admissions to secure custody decreased by 11% from the previous year while open custody decreased by 16%. As a result, there was an overall decline of 14% in sentenced custody admissions for 2005/2006 (Table 1).⁸ The number of youth admitted to sentenced custody dropped in most jurisdictions (Table 2).

Text box 1

Factors that limit comparability across jurisdictions

When examining the data contained in this *Juristat*, and the trends and differences among jurisdictions, it is important to consider that these results are, in part, a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada. As the data in this report are drawn from provincial/territorial administrative information systems, they are sensitive to local case management practices as well as differences in the way information is maintained on these systems.

Overall levels of admissions and average counts may differ among jurisdictions because of variations in the diversion measures employed by the police and the Crown. Such measures include the use of police discretion as well as extrajudicial measures and sanctions. These diversion programs may have an impact on both the court case flow and admissions to community supervision programs and correctional facilities. Consequently, the reader is advised to consider table notes and use caution in making comparisons among jurisdictions. For more information on definitions and limitations, please see the Data Sources and Measures section at the end of this *Juristat*.

Vast majority of youth spent less than 6 months in either open or secure custody

The overwhelming majority of young offenders admitted to sentenced custody in 2005/2006 served a period of six months or less (Table 3). In 2005/2006, 44% of youth released from secure custody⁹ had served a term of 1 month or less and the same proportion had spent anywhere from more than 1 month up to 6 months. Thirteen percent had served more than 6 months.¹⁰

In comparison to secure custody, patterns in 2005/2006 were slightly different for youth released from open custody. A greater

proportion of those released had spent anywhere from more than 1 month to 6 months in open custody (52% versus 44% released from secure custody) and lower proportions had spent 1 month or less (41%), or more than 6 months in open custody (7%).

Admissions to remand accounted for over three-quarters of all youth admitted to custody

Admissions to remand include all young persons temporarily in custody while awaiting trial or sentencing. Young persons may be remanded into custody based on the judge's decision that the young person poses a danger to society, that there may be a risk of failure to appear for court, or where detention is necessary to maintain confidence in the administration of justice. The YCJA states that remand must not be used as a social measure, such as child protection. In general, a youth can only be remanded if he or she has committed an offence for which he or she can be sentenced to custody if found guilty (s.39(1)a-c).¹¹

In 2005/2006, reporting jurisdictions¹² indicated that there were 13,681 admissions to remand, an increase of 2% from the previous year (Table 1). These admissions accounted for over three-quarters (79%) of admissions to custody. Decreases in admissions to remand were reported in Quebec (-36%), British Columbia (-8%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-4%), while the remaining jurisdictions experienced increases (Table 2).

Over half of all youth held in remand were released within one week

In 2005/2006, 55% of all young persons admitted to remand were released within 1 week and an additional 27% were held for up to 1 month (Table 3).¹³ While 17% were held for a period between more than 1 month and 6 months, a very small proportion was held in remand for a period of time greater than 6 months (1%).

In 2005/2006, youth in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut spent considerably longer periods of time in remand than youth in other jurisdictions (Table 3). For instance, 43% of youth in Nunavut and 36% in the Northwest Territories spent anywhere from more than 1 month to 6 months in remand. In comparison, Manitoba, the next highest jurisdiction, reported 27% of youth spending this amount of time in remand. The longer periods of time spent in remand for youth in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut could be related to the accessibility of courts and services in remote northern areas.

Youth convicted of violent and property offences accounted for similar proportions of youth admitted to sentenced custody

According to 10 reporting jurisdictions, youth convicted of either *property*¹⁴ (29%) or *violent*¹⁵ offences (33%) accounted for similar proportions of admissions to sentenced custody in 2005/2006 (Table 4).¹⁶ That year, of the 10 reporting jurisdictions, 5 experienced higher proportions of admissions for *property offences* than for *violent offences*, including Newfoundland and Labrador (52% versus 28%), Nova Scotia (39% versus 27%), Alberta (16% versus 14%), Yukon (78% versus 11%) and Nunavut (72% versus 28%).

One-third of admissions to remand were for violent offences

In 2005/2006, 33% of young persons admitted to remand were admitted for *violent offences*.¹⁷ Meanwhile admissions for other

Criminal Code offences accounted for 28% of admissions, *property offences* for 26%, and other offences for 13%. The largest proportion of remand admissions for *violent offences* was reported in Manitoba at 60% and the smallest in Alberta at 9% (Table 4).

Admissions to probation declined

Under the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) - the legislation governing young offenders prior to the *YCJA* - probation was sometimes imposed as a measure to reintegrate youth back into the community after a period of sentenced custody. With the introduction of the *YCJA*, a period of community supervision became a mandatory component of all custody orders. Although the mandatory supervision component of all custody orders may lessen the need to impose a probation order, it is more likely that decreases in the use of probation may be a result of the expanded options for police diversion under the *YCJA*. The 12,550 admissions to probation¹⁸ in 2005/2006 represented a 2% decrease from the previous year (Table 1).¹⁹

In 2005/2006, among the 7 reporting jurisdictions,²⁰ there were 13,129 releases from probation. The largest proportion of youth were released after serving 6 months to 1 year (41%) (Table 6).

Property and violent offences accounted for similar proportions of admissions to probation

In 2005/2006, 39% of young persons admitted to probation were admitted as a result of *property offences*.²¹ Similarly, *violent offences* accounted for 37% of admissions. *Other Criminal Code offences* accounted for 15% of admissions while *other offences* accounted for 9% (Table 4). It is important to bear in mind that admissions to probation include those where a youth received a combined sentence of custody with probation and has begun his or her term of probation after completing the term of custody.

Use of *YCJA* community sentences increased from 2003/2004

With the inclusion of the community portion of custody and supervision orders (CPCS) and the new deferred custody and supervision order sentences, there are more community corrections sanctions available under the *YCJA*. The CPCS is meant to allow the reintegration of the youth from custody into the community.²² A CPCS is similar to a federal statutory release where, ordinarily, the final one-third of a custody sentence is served under community supervision. The deferred custody and supervision order sentence is similar to the adult conditional sentence and allows a young person who would otherwise be sentenced to custody to serve their sentence in the community under a number of strict conditions. Any breach of conditions may result in the young person being sent to custody.

In 2005/2006, there were 1,452 admissions to a deferred custody and supervision order,²³ representing an increase of 2% from the previous year (Table 7) and a 33% increase since 2003/2004, the first year the *YCJA* was implemented. With respect to CPCS's,²⁴ there were 3,176 admissions in 2005/2006, representing a 9% decrease from the previous year. This number, however, was 17% higher than admissions reported in 2003/2004.

Females accounted for approximately one-fifth of admissions to youth correctional service programs

As with youth who are accused by police and who appear in youth court, a minority of youth in correctional services are female. Among reporting jurisdictions for 2005/2006, female youth accounted for 21% of young persons admitted to remand²⁵ and 17% of young persons admitted to sentenced custody.²⁶ Moreover, in 2005/2006 the representation of females continued to be slightly higher among admissions to probation (23%) than among admissions to custody (Table 8).

Higher representation of Aboriginal youth in correctional services

Aboriginal youth had higher levels of representation in sentenced custody compared to their representation in the Canadian youth population in all provinces and territories. For example, in British Columbia the proportion of youth admitted to sentenced custody who were Aboriginal was five-fold their representation in the youth population.

Among jurisdictions reporting data, Aboriginal youth accounted for 24% of admissions to custody or probation in 2005/2006²⁷ yet approximately 6% of youth in Canada. Specifically, Aboriginal youth represented 31% of all admissions to sentenced custody, 23% of all admissions to remand and 22% of all admissions to probation (Table 8). In total, there were 7,516 admissions of Aboriginal youth to custody or probation.

Female Aboriginal youth represent considerable share of all female admissions

While both male and female Aboriginal youth are highly represented in correctional services, this is particularly true for female Aboriginal youth. In 2005/2006, female Aboriginal youth accounted for 35% of females admitted to sentenced custody²⁸ and 27% admitted to remand.²⁹ By comparison, the representation of male Aboriginal youth among admissions of males for these types of custody was lower (31% and 22%, respectively).

Text box 2 Aboriginal justice

Most Aboriginal societies focus on holistic understanding and inclusive decision-making when finding a "solution" within the context of crime (Chartrand, 2005). The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (*YCJA*) includes provisions that are intended to respond to the high level of Aboriginal representation in the justice system as well as Aboriginal needs. The *YCJA* acknowledges the need to respect cultural and linguistic differences of Aboriginal persons and to respond to their specific needs. In this regard, *Part 4* of the *YCJA* states that, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal young persons, all available sanctions other than custody should be considered, (s.38 (2)(d), *YCJA*). In addition, through conferencing provisions and its guiding principles,¹ the *YCJA* encourages those administering the *Act* to "prevent crime by addressing the circumstances underlying a young person's offending behaviour" (s.3 (1)(a)(i)).

1. The mandate of a conference is to "give advice on appropriate extrajudicial measures, conditions for judicial interim release, sentences, including the review of sentences, and reintegration plans" (s.19 (2)). According to Tustin and Lutes (2006), "the objective is to encourage more input from interested parties and people affected by the misconduct of the youth" (p.40).

Youth corrections before and after the YCJA

In this section of the report, trend analysis will be conducted to compare the landscape of youth correctional services prior to and since the implementation of the YCJA. For comparability, trend analysis completed in this *Juristat* focuses on five selected years: 1999/2000, 2001/2002, 2003/2004, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. This approach was taken because several jurisdictions were either missing certain data or missing various years of data, and/or had experienced changes in data capture systems which affected the comparability of data.³⁰ As such, the years chosen for the trend analysis provide the most complete data over time in order to examine youth corrections both prior to and since the implementation of the YCJA on April 1, 2003.

Admissions to sentenced custody continued to decline, but decreases were smaller in the third year of the YCJA

Admissions to sentenced custody in 2005/2006 were substantially lower than prior to the YCJA and the large decreases observed

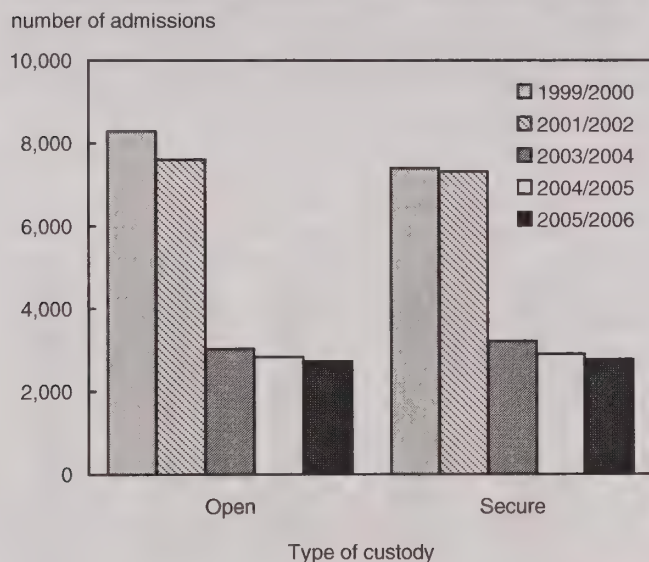
directly after the YCJA's enactment have begun to stabilize. Based on data from selected jurisdictions,³¹ admissions to sentenced custody in 2005/2006 were down 63% from 2001/2002, the earliest comparable trend year prior to the implementation of the YCJA, but were just 5% below 2004/2005. More specifically, admissions to secure custody were 62% less than in 2001/2002 and down 5% from 2004/2005. Open custody admissions in 2005/2006 were down 64% from 2001/2002 and decreased 6% from the 2004/2005 (Chart 1).

Remand accounting for a larger proportion of admissions to custody

Large decreases in the number of admissions to sentenced custody since the implementation of the YCJA, accompanied by lesser decreases in admissions to remand, have resulted in remand admissions accounting for a greater proportion of custodial admissions. According to data from 10 reporting jurisdictions,³² youth admitted to remand accounted for 73% of custodial admissions in 2005/2006, compared to 65% in 2001/2002 (Chart 2).

Chart 1

Decreases in custody admissions since the implementation of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) in April 2003 have tapered off

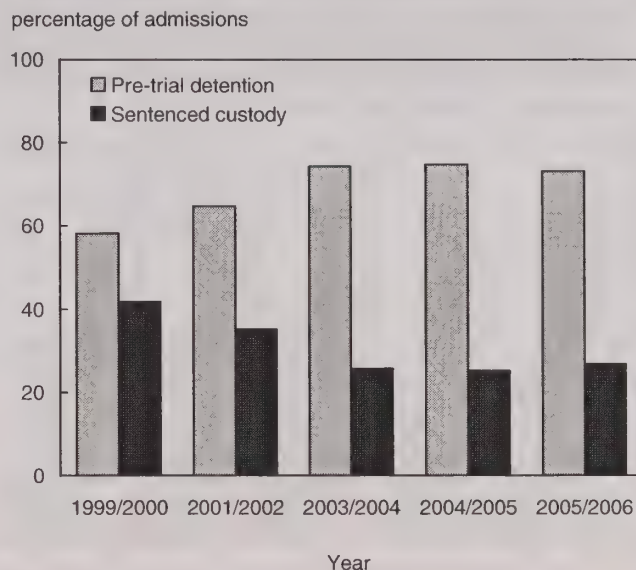


Notes: Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island and Nunavut. Trend analysis in this report is limited to the selected periods of 1999/2000, 2001/2002, 2003/2004, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. These years were chosen because they have the most complete data and provide information on youth corrections prior to and since the implementation of the YCJA on April 1, 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

Chart 2

Since the implementation of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), remand (pre-trial detention) makes up an increasing share of admissions to custody while sentenced custody has decreased



Notes: Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and Ontario Phase I (12- to 15-year-olds). A proxy was used to derive Phase II (16- to 17-year-olds) for both remand and sentenced custody in 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. Trend analysis in this report is limited to the selected periods of 1999/2000, 2001/2002, 2003/2004, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. These years were chosen because they have the most complete data and provide information on youth corrections prior to and since the implementation of the YCJA on April 1, 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

Majority of youth continue to be held in remand for 1 week or less but the proportion has decreased slightly

Under the *YCJA*, it appears that the proportion of youth spending 1 week or less in remand has decreased slightly. Just over half (52%) of releases in the 6 reporting jurisdictions³³ in 2005/2006 occurred within 1 week or less compared to 55% in 2001/2002. The proportion of releases after more than 1 week and up to 1 month in remand remained stable (31% in 2001/2002 to 30% in 2005/2006). However, releases after a period of more than 1 month to 6 months inched upward slightly from 13% in 2001/2002 to 17% in 2005/2006.

A greater proportion of youth seem to be spending longer periods of time in sentenced custody

Data from seven jurisdictions³⁴ suggest that under the *YCJA* the proportion of youth spending more than one month in sentenced custody is greater than under the *Young Offenders Act (YOA)*. According to data from the jurisdictions included in the trend analysis, 42% of youth in 2005/2006 were released from secure custody after serving a period greater than 1 month but less than 6 months (Chart 3). This was true for 37% of youth in 2001/2002. Youth who spent 6 months or more in secure custody has fluctuated through the years, but accounted for 13% in 2005/2006

compared to 8% in 2001/2002. This may mean that the reduction in admissions to secure custody under the *YCJA* could be partially attributable to a reduction in youth who, under the *YOA*, would have been sentenced to secure custody for a short period of time.

Analysis of open custody releases in eight jurisdictions³⁵ suggests that changes in length of time served are similar to the changes witnessed with secure custody releases (Chart 4).

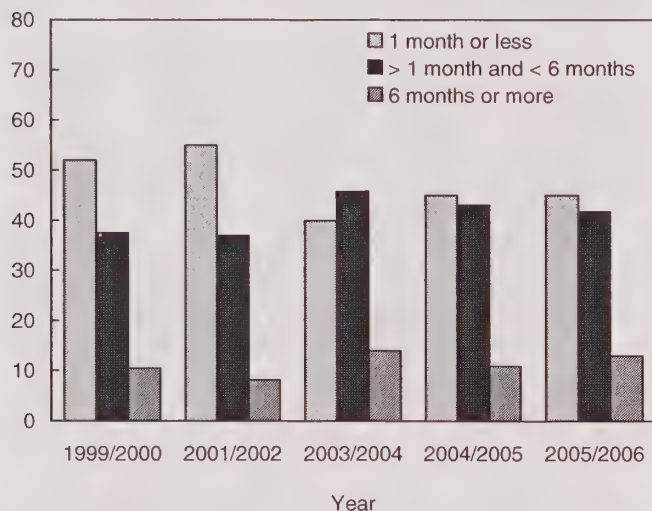
Decreases in admissions to sentenced custody for property offences after implementation of the *YCJA* have changed the composition of admissions

Admissions to sentenced custody by the most serious offence designation no longer consist predominantly of those convicted of *property offences* (Chart 5). According to data from 6 jurisdictions,³⁶ 26% of admissions to sentenced custody in 2005/2006 were for property offences, compared to 36% in 2001/2002. Although admissions to sentenced custody declined overall between these two reference periods and decreases were therefore seen in admissions for all types of offences, the shift in the composition of most serious offence among admissions is driven by larger declines in the number of admissions for *property offences*.³⁷

Chart 3

Proportion of secure custody releases within the first month decreased following the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)*

percentage of releases from secure custody



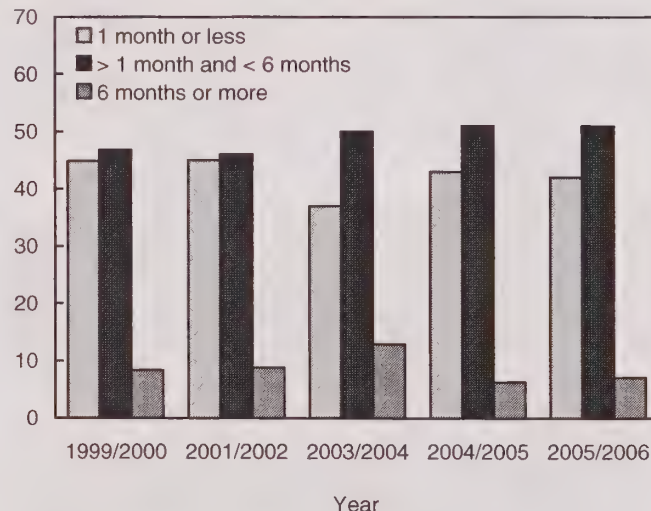
Notes: Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Trend analysis in this report is limited to the selected periods of 1999/2000, 2001/2002, 2003/2004, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. These years were chosen because they have the most complete data and provide information on youth corrections prior to and since the implementation of the *YCJA* on April 1, 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

Chart 4

Proportion of open custody releases within the first month decreased following the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)*

percentage of releases from open custody



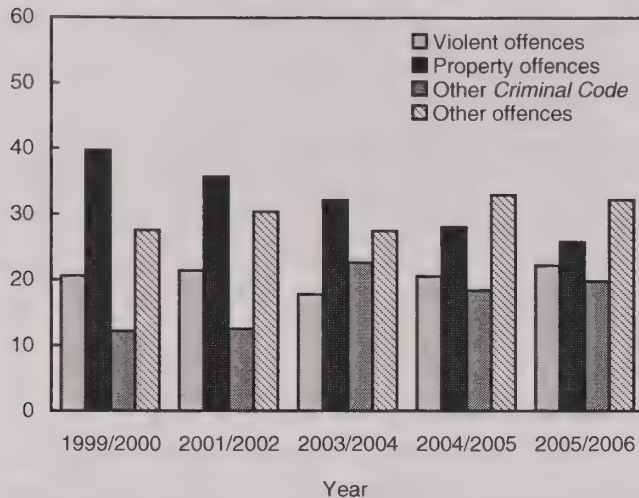
Notes: Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Trend analysis in this report is limited to the selected periods of 1999/2000, 2001/2002, 2003/2004, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. These years were chosen because they have the most complete data and provide information on youth corrections prior to and since the implementation of the *YCJA* on April 1, 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

Chart 5

Decreases in admissions to sentenced custody for property offences after implementation of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) have changed the composition of admissions

percentage of admissions to sentenced custody



Notes: Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Trend analysis in this report is limited to the selected periods of 1999/2000, 2001/2002, 2003/2004, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. These years were chosen because they have the most complete data and provide information on youth corrections prior to and since the implementation of the YCJA on April 1, 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

Compared to under the Young Offenders Act, admissions to probation declined by over half

Under the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), probation was sometimes imposed as a measure to reintegrate youth back into the community after a period of sentenced custody. With the introduction of the YCJA, a period of community supervision became a mandatory component of most custody orders, thereby perhaps reducing the need to impose a probation order. Compared to 2001/2002, the earliest comparable trend year prior to the implementation of the YCJA, admissions to probation in 2005/2006 were 53% lower.³⁸ It is also possible that decreases in the use of probation are a result of the expanded options for police diversion under the YCJA. Probation as a proportion of all admissions to correctional services remained stable at 37% in both 2004/2005 and 2005/2006.

Under the YCJA, a greater proportion of youth in sentenced custody were Aboriginal

As the number of youth in sentenced custody has decreased with the implementation of the YCJA in April 2003, their composition with respect to characteristics appears to have changed. An examination of selected comparable years of data for 11 jurisdictions³⁹ reveals that Aboriginal youth as a proportion of admissions to sentenced custody has been increasing since 2001/2002. Aboriginal youth accounted for 22% of youth admitted to sentenced custody in 2001/2002 and 31% in 2005/2006. This, however, may be due to improved reporting of Aboriginal identity.

Youth 16 to 17 year olds account for a greater proportion of those in sentenced custody since the enactment of the YCJA

With the enactment of the YCJA the proportion of 16- to 17-year-olds in sentenced custody grew. In 2001/2002 16- to 17-year-olds accounted for 53% of young persons admitted to sentenced custody compared to 69% in 2005/2006 (Chart 6). This is consistent with research showing that as young offenders get older, they tend to commit more serious types of offences and are more likely to have had previous contact with the criminal justice system, factors which make them more apt to receive a sentence of custody (Thomas, 2008). Conversely, younger youth tend to commit less serious offences and have less contact with the criminal justice system which makes them candidates for some form of diversion, extrajudicial sanction or measure, or community supervision. Given the objective of the YCJA, to reserve the use of custody for the most serious offenders while diverting the minor offenders, it stands to reason that 16- to 17-year-olds are now accounting for a larger percentage of admissions to sentenced custody.

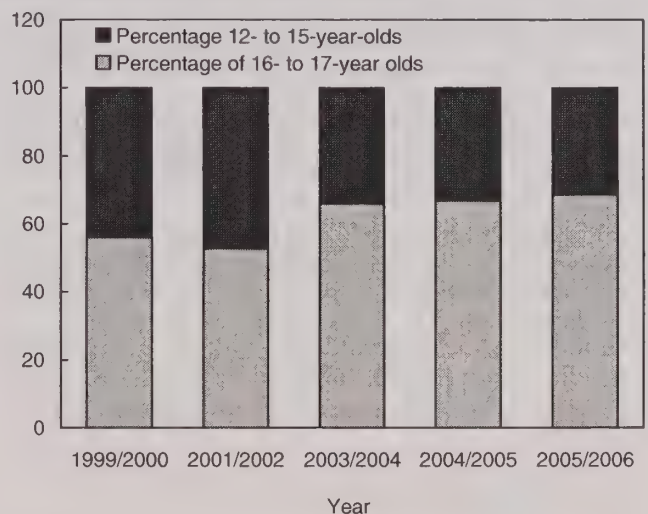
Little change in the proportion of female youth admitted to sentenced custody

Compared to under the YOA, females as a proportion of admissions to sentenced custody have remained relatively stable.⁴⁰

Chart 6

Youth aged 16 to 17 years old are making up an increasingly larger portion of sentenced custody admissions

percentage of sentenced custody admissions



Notes: Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Nunavut. Trend analysis in this report is limited to the selected periods of 1999/2000, 2001/2002, 2003/2004, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. These years were chosen because they have the most complete data and provide information on youth corrections prior to and since the implementation of the YCJA on April 1, 2003.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey.

In 2001/2002 female youth accounted for 19% of admission to sentenced custody and 17% in 2005/2006, with little difference in the other trend analysis years.

Average counts of youth in custody and under community supervision⁴¹

While admissions data provide an overview of the caseload flowing through the various correctional services programs, data on average counts provide a snapshot of the number of youth in custody on any given day and the number of youth in community supervision at the end of any given month. Average counts are important to managers in correctional services as they are used as key operational measures for the utilization of services.

Youth incarceration rate almost 60% lower than in 1996/1997

The incarceration rate is the average daily number of young persons in sentenced custody and remand per 10,000 youth aged 12 to 17 in the population. This number describes the level of incarceration in relation to the number of young persons in the population and permits comparisons over time by taking into account changes in the size of the Canada's youth population. The overall youth incarceration rate has been on the decline over the last decade. In 2005/2006, 7.5 of every 10,000 youth were incarcerated (Table 9), a 9% decrease from the previous year. The 2005/2006 rate was 40% lower than in 2002/2003 and 58% lower than in 1996/1997.⁴²

Sentenced custody counts continued to decline

In 2005/2006, an average of 1,152 young persons were in sentenced custody on any given day in Canada, a decline of 12% from 2004/2005, and an overall decline of 26% since the first year of the implementation of the *YCJA* in 2003/2004. Among the young persons in sentenced custody in 2005/2006, there were, on average, 590 young persons in secure custody and 562 in open custody. These represent decreases of 16% and 7%, respectively, from 2004/2005 (Table 10).

In 2005/2006, jurisdictions varied substantially in the rate of young persons in sentenced custody, ranging from 2.4 per 10,000 youth in British Columbia to 39.6 per 10,000 youth in the Northwest Territories (Table 11). Since 2003/2004, all jurisdictions but Nunavut experienced declines in their rates of sentenced custody. In particular, from 2003/2004 to 2005/2006, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and the Yukon experienced declines of more than 30% (Table 11).

Remand counts increased as a proportion of total custodial services

On any given day in 2005/2006, there were 859 youth in remand, 7% fewer than the previous year, yet 1% more than in the first year of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (Table 12). Due to large declines in sentenced custody, youth in remand account for a greater proportion of youth in custody. For instance, in 2005/2006, they accounted for 42% compared to 35% in 2003/2004. In 2005/2006, jurisdictions varied in the rate of young persons held on remand, ranging from 0.8 per 10,000 youth population in Prince Edward Island to 13.2 in Nunavut (Table 11).

Average number of youth on probation declines

The average month end count of young offenders on probation in 2005/2006 was 18,619, down 12% from the previous year and 33% from 2003/2004 (Table 13). While the probation rate has declined steadily from 2001/2002, rates continue to vary from one jurisdiction to another (Table 14).

Little change in average number of youth on new *YCJA* community supervision provisions

With a deferred custody and supervision order, the court may allow a young person who would otherwise be sentenced to custody, to defer the custodial portion of the sentence and to serve a sentence in the community under a number of strict conditions. In 2005/2006, there were, on average, 595 young persons on deferred custody which is relatively unchanged compared to 2004/2005 (Table 15). Similarly, the community portion of a custody and supervision order has also remained relatively stable at 404 in 2004/2005 and 408 in 2005/2006.

Summary

The implementation of the *YCJA* on April 1, 2003 has brought many changes to the landscape of youth correctional services. In general, the youth correctional system has witnessed substantial decreases in admissions to correctional programs, in average daily counts of youth in custody and in average monthly counts of youth under community supervision. The largest changes were observed in the two years following the implementation of the *YCJA*, with decreases slowing in 2005/2006. That year, the number of youth admitted to correctional services declined 2% from the previous year to 33,894 admissions. With the exception of remand and the deferred custody and supervision order sentence, decreases were evident in all other youth correctional service programs, both custody and community. Further, trend analysis of selected years has revealed that the composition of admissions to sentenced custody has changed in line with the principles of the *YCJA* and its objective of reserving its most serious intervention for the most serious crimes. For instance, 16- to 17-year-olds as a proportion of admissions to sentenced custody grew with the implementation of the *YCJA*. Property offences no longer account for the greatest proportion of admissions as they did under the *YOA*. And, shorter stays in sentenced custody are accounting for a smaller proportion of releases. With respect to Aboriginal youth, however, representation in sentenced custody continues to be high.

Data sources and measures

The information presented in this *Juristat* comes from data collected on youth correctional services in Canada through three surveys: the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey, the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) which is currently being implemented and is intended to eventually replace the YCCS, and the Key Indicator Report (KIR) for youth. All three surveys are conducted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS). The data are provided by the various provincial and territorial ministries and agencies that administer correctional services across the country. The surveys are conducted annually, on a fiscal-year basis. As a result of consistent counting practices

within jurisdictions over time, statements may be made about the trends within each jurisdiction.

Given that most of the data are reported in aggregate form, there are limits to the types of analyses or cross-tabulations that can be performed. For example, data such as median age of offenders and median sentence length for each province cannot be combined to calculate a national median for all offenders.

The Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey

The YCCS survey collects the aggregate number of annual admissions to, and releases from, correctional facilities and community supervision programs. Admissions data are collected when an individual enters an institution or community supervision program, and describe and measure the case flow in correctional agencies over time. While aggregate **admissions** include all persons passing through the correctional system, they do not indicate the number of unique individuals in the correctional system. The same person can be included several times in the admission counts where the individual moves from one type of correctional service to another (e.g., from remand to sentenced custody) or re-enters the system in the same year.

The following example provides an illustration of how admissions for one young offender are tabulated by the YCCS survey. Where a youth has been denied judicial interim release and is held in remand until he or she is sentenced to serve a term of secure custody, followed by a term of open custody and probation, the YCCS counts:

e.g. remand + secure + open + probation (all served consecutively)

Admissions: 1 admission to remand
 1 admission to secure custody
 1 admission to open custody
 1 admission to probation

Youth transferred from one facility to another while still under the same level of supervision are not counted as new admissions. New admission counts also exclude young offenders placed in secure custody as transfers from open custody facilities. These “administrative” transfers are for a short period of time, not to exceed 15 days, and are authorized by a senior correctional official. In addition, youth returning from a period of temporary absence are not included as new admissions.

Although the YCCS survey attempts to standardize the way in which status changes are counted, limitations due to differences among jurisdictional operational systems may restrict uniform application of the survey definitions in some situations. For this reason, inter-jurisdictional comparisons of the number of admissions should be made with caution. Nevertheless, as a result of consistent counting practices within jurisdictions over time, statements can be made about the trends within each jurisdiction.

The Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS)

The ICSS collects person-level descriptive data and characteristics information on young persons and was developed to eventually replace the YCCS. Data from 2005/2006 include the following jurisdictions: Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Ontario

and Alberta. The jurisdictions not yet reporting to the ICSS continue to participate in the YCCS.

The Key Indicator Report (KIR) for youth

The KIR collects data on both the average daily counts for youth in custody (i.e., remand, secure and open) and average monthly counts of youth supervised in the community (i.e., probation, community portion of custody sentence and deferred custody and supervision order). Average counts include all young persons on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a youth correctional facility and who are present at the time the count is taken by correctional facility officials. Average counts for young persons on community supervision are taken at the end of the month.

Average counts provide a snapshot of the daily correctional population and are used to calculate an annual average count. Managers in correctional services use average counts as a key operational measure for the utilization of services, such as bed space in institutions. Typically, correctional officials perform daily counts in their facilities and monthly counts of offenders under community supervision. Average count statistics, collected through the KIR, are more representative of longer term inmates and offenders serving longer term community supervision orders. They are also the count used to calculate incarceration rates.

Glossary of terms

Aboriginal identity: Indicates whether the youth is an Aboriginal person. Aboriginal identity includes North American, Métis and Inuit registered under the *Indian Act* and those who are non-registered. Please note that this variable is self-reported and data availability varies among jurisdictions.

Admission: Refers to the youth’s commencement of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody, probation, the community portion of a custody and supervision order, intensive support and supervision, and deferred custody and supervision order). For the YCCS survey, a new admission is counted each time an offender changes status.

Age: Refers to the age of the offender at the time of admission into a youth facility or community program.

Community portion of a custody and community supervision order: Under the *YCJA* most custody sentences have a community supervision component attached. The community supervision portion can be up to half as long as the custodial period, and the periods combined must not exceed the maximum sentence length specified in the *YCJA*.

Custody: A status that requires the young offender to spend time in a designated correctional facility, either in secure custody, open custody or remand as ordered by the youth court.

Deferred custody and supervision order: A deferred custody and supervision order allows a young person, who would

otherwise be sentenced to custody, to serve his/her sentence in the community. A deferred custody and supervision order is similar to a conditional sentence of imprisonment for adults.

Intensive support and supervision program (ISSP): Similar to probation, the intensive support and supervision order is served in the community under conditions, but an ISSP provides closer monitoring and support than probation.

Month-end probation count: An indication of the current monthly caseload of young offenders on supervised probation.

Most serious offence (Youth Custody and Community Services Survey): The YCCS survey categorizes the "most serious offence" (MSO) according to the offence classification scheme currently being used by the Youth Court Survey. The MSO categories include the following:

1. **Violent offences:** Include *Criminal Code* offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion. Violent offences involve the use or threatened use of violence against a person. Robbery is considered a violent offence because unlike other theft offences, it involves the use or threat of violence.
2. **Property offences:** Include *Criminal Code* offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief. Property offences involve unlawful acts to gain property, but do not involve the use or threat of violence against the person.
3. **Other *Criminal Code* offences:** Include *Criminal Code* offences such as prostitution, impaired operation of a motor vehicle, escaped custody, failure to appear, disorderly conduct, soliciting, and other offences against the administration of justice.
4. **Drug related offences:** Include offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act* such as importing/exporting narcotics, trafficking in narcotics, possession of narcotics, cultivation, trafficking in drugs, and possession of drugs. In this *Juristat*, this category is rolled into *other offences*.
5. **YOA/YCJA offences:** Include offences such as failure to comply with a court ordered disposition, and contempt against youth court. In this *Juristat*, this category is rolled into *other offences*.
6. **Provincial/territorial, municipal and other federal offences:** Include offences such as provincial liquor offences, provincial/territorial traffic violations, violations of municipal by-laws, and violations of other federal statutes such as offences under the *Income Tax Act* and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. In this *Juristat*, this category is rolled into *other offences*.

Open custody: In accordance with section 85(1) and 88 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), all provinces/territories have maintained the definition of open custody provided under section 24.1 of the YOA as follows:

- (a) a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, or forest wilderness camp, or
- (b) any other like place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province or his delegate as a place of open custody for the purposes of this Act, and includes a place or facility within a class of such places or facilities so designated.

Probation: A common type of community-based sentence, where the offender is placed under the supervision of a probation officer or other designated person. This includes only supervised probation.

Release: Refers to the completion of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation). For the YCCS survey, a new release is counted each time an offender changes type of correctional supervision.

Remand: To hold a young person temporarily in custody, pursuant to a Remand Warrant, while awaiting trial or sentencing, or prior to commencement of a custodial disposition.

Secure custody: In accordance with section 85(1) and 88 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), all provinces/territories have maintained the definition of secure custody provided under section 24.1 of the YOA as follows:

Secure custody means custody in a place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province for secure containment or restraint of young persons, and includes a place or facility within a class of such places or facilities so designated.

Sentenced custody: Refers to both secure and open custody

Sentence length: This refers to the aggregate sentence or total amount of days a young person is ordered to serve under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The specific number of days must be for an uninterrupted period of time during which the youth is under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director. For multiple *custodial sentences* (i.e., secure and open custody), if sentences are concurrent then the sentence length is the longest sentence; if the sentences are consecutive then the sentence length is the sum of all custodial sentences; and if sentences are both concurrent and consecutive then the aggregate sentence is the sum of both types as calculated above.

Time served: Refers to the aggregate time served or total number of days a young person spent in custody upon completion of an uninterrupted period of time during which time the youth was under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director.

Young person: A person who is twelve years of age or older, but less than eighteen years of age, at the time of committing an offence.

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Endnotes

1. Due to missing data from various jurisdictions for various years, data in the highlights are based on data from jurisdictions that consistently reported information over time. These jurisdictions differ across highlights.
2. The *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* makes provision for open and secure custody through section 85(1) which requires that there must be at least two levels of custody for young persons distinguished by the degree of restraint of the young persons in them. Further, all provinces/territories, through section 88, have opted to maintain the definitions of open and secure custody provided under section 24.1 of the *Young Offenders Act (YOA)*. For definitions of open and secure custody refer to the glossary section of this *Juristat*.
3. Refer to the glossary section of this *Juristat* for definitions of probation, the community portion of a custody and supervision order, and the deferred custody and supervision order. The responsibility of youth who receive a conditional discharge by the courts also falls under youth corrections. However, these cases fall outside the scope of the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey.
4. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
5. For further statistics on youth court activity, see Thomas, 2008.
6. See endnote 4.

7. Admissions to remand are admissions to pre-trial detention only and do not include provincial director remand which is captured separately by the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey. However, some jurisdictions are unable to separate the number of admissions to provincial director remand from admissions to pre-trial detention.
8. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
9. See endnote 2 for the distinction between open and secure custody.
10. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories.
11. The only exception to this is where the youth has committed an offence for which they could be sentenced to custody according to s. 39(1)(d) (i.e., exceptional circumstances). In these cases, s.29(2) dictates that they cannot be remanded for the protection of safety of the public.
12. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
13. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.
14. *Property offences* include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor theft, fraud, possession of stolen property, and mischief.
15. *Violent offences* include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping, and extortion.
16. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan. The remaining categories include other *Criminal Code* offences which include offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct (20% of sentenced custody admissions) as well as *other offences* which include drug-related offences, *YOA/YCJA* and other federal offences, and provincial/territorial/municipal offences (19% of sentenced custody admissions).
17. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.
18. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
19. For data by jurisdiction see Table 5.
20. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
21. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.
22. See Department of Justice Canada, *YCJA Explained*.
23. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and Nunavut.
24. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and British Columbia.
25. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.
26. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island and Quebec.
27. *Ibid*.

28. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island and Quebec.
29. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.
30. System changes in two jurisdictions were key determinants in selecting these five specific reference periods for trend analysis. First, British Columbia changed its administrative data capture systems in 1998/1999. As such, the trend analysis for this *Juristat* begins in 1999/2000 to enable the inclusion of British Columbia. Second, the two Ministries responsible for youth corrections in Ontario amalgamated in 2003/2004 and, as a result, Ontario did not report data for 12- to 15-year-olds for 2002/2003.
31. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island and Nunavut.
32. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Ontario Phase II (12- to 15-year-olds), Saskatchewan and Nunavut.
33. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.
34. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
35. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
36. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.
37. Specifically, from 2001/2002 to 2005/2006, the number of admissions for *property offences* decreased 72%, *violent offences* decreased 60%, *other offences* (includes drug-related offences and other federal/provincial offences) decreased 59% and other *Criminal Code offences* (which is primarily offences against the administration of justice) decreased by 39%.
38. Due to missing data, the analysis excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
39. Excludes Prince Edward Island, and Quebec.
40. Excludes Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Nunavut.
41. Data on average counts for youth in 2005/2006 were originally released on November 21, 2007.
42. For more information on the incarceration rate, see Statistics Canada. *The Daily*. "Adult and youth correctional services: Key indicators" released Wednesday, November 21, 2007.

Table 1

Number of admissions to youth correctional services, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006

Correctional services	2004/2005			2005/2006			Percentage change in adjusted admissions from 2004/2005
	Admissions	Adjusted admissions ¹	% of total ²	Admissions	Adjusted admissions ¹	% of total ²	
	number	percentage		number	percentage		
Custodial supervision							
Sentenced custody	5,836	4,307	12	5,538	3,724	11	-14
Secure custody	2,927	2,143	6	2,788	1,902	6	-11
Open custody	2,909	2,164	6	2,750	1,822	5	-16
Remand	16,730	13,418	39	15,951	13,681	40	2
Total custodial supervision	22,566	17,725	51	21,489	17,405	51	-2
Community supervision							
Probation ³	18,267	12,804	37	17,522	12,550	37	-2
Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) sentences ⁴	4,907	4,108	12	4,628	3,939	12	-4
Community portion of a custody and supervision order	3,488	3,104	9	3,176	2,875	8	-7
Deferred custody and supervision order	1,419	1,004	3	1,452	1,064	3	6
Total community supervision	23,174	16,912	49	22,150	16,489	49	-3
Total correctional services	45,740	34,637	100	43,639	33,894	100	-2

1. Due to missing data, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been excluded from "Adjusted admissions" in order to make comparisons between years. The jurisdictions excluded in this table may differ from the jurisdictions excluded in other related tables. As such, totals for the same data element may differ from one table to another.

2. The percentages of total statistics are based upon adjusted admissions.

3. Admissions to YCJA sentences for British Columbia are included in probation admissions.

4. Due to rounding, the community portion of a custody and supervision order and the deferred custody and supervision order may not add up to the total percent of YCJA sentences.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 2

Admissions of young persons to custody, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹			Secure custody ²			Open custody ²		
			% change from 2004/2005			% change from 2004/2005			% change from 2004/2005
	2004/2005	2005/2006		2004/2005	2005/2006		2004/2005	2005/2006	
	number		percentage	number		percentage	number		percentage
Total	16,730	15,951	-5	2,927	2,788	-5	2,909	2,750	-5
Newfoundland and Labrador	158	151	-4	60	53	-12	67	44	-34
Prince Edward Island	..	..	...	..	..	...	..	..	...
Nova Scotia	163	227	39	16 ^r	5	-69	120 ^r	141	18
New Brunswick	275	305	11	137	145	6	131	96	-27
Quebec	3,088	1,975	-36	569	723	27	362	584	61
Ontario	8,351	8,472	1	1,097	839	-24	1,121	939	-16
Manitoba	1,552	1,714	10	136	95	-30	243	271	12
Saskatchewan	..	..	...	160	117	-27	216	159	-26
Alberta	1,655	1,716	4	486	484	0	249	247	-1
British Columbia	1,404	1,290	-8	225	285	27	343	217	-37
Yukon	23	33	43	2	1	-50	10	8	-20
Northwest Territories	39	41	5	24	28	17	29	25	-14
Nunavut	22	27	23	15	13	-13	18	19	6

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

^r revised

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.

2. Totals exclude Prince Edward Island.

Note: The jurisdictions excluded in this table may differ from the jurisdictions excluded in other related tables. As such, totals for the same data element may differ from one table to another.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 3

Releases from remand, secure, and open custody, by time served, 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹				Secure custody ²			Open custody ²		
	1 week or less	>1 week to 1 month	>1 month to 6 months	>6 months	1 month or less	>1 to 6 months	>6 months	1 month or less	>1 to 6 months	>6 months
	percentage									
Total	55	27	17	1	44	44	13	41	52	7
Newfoundland and Labrador	62	28	11	0	28	57	15	25	72	4
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	56	25	19	0	20	60	20	17	60	23
New Brunswick	51	30	19	0	33	58	9	26	62	12
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario	58	26	15	1	43	45	12	46	49	5
Manitoba	49	23	27	2	8	50	42	28	65	7
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta	53	26	18	2	54	36	10	40	50	10
British Columbia	49	34	16	0	53	38	9	55	39	6
Yukon	53	34	13	0	0	100	0	29	57	14
Northwest Territories	19	43	36	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	21	29	43	7	50	50	0	39	61	0

.. not available for a specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Total remand excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

2. Total open and secure custody excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 4

Distribution of young persons admitted to remand, sentenced custody and probation, by most serious offence, 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹				Sentenced custody (secure and open) ¹				Probation ²			
	Violent ³	Property ⁴	Other Criminal Code ⁵	Other offences ⁶	Violent ³	Property ⁴	Other Criminal Code ⁵	Other offences ⁶	Violent ³	Property ⁴	Other Criminal Code ⁵	Other offences ⁶
	percentage											
Total	33	26	28	13	33	29	17	21	37	39	15	9
Newfoundland and Labrador	19	43	37	1	28	52	21	0	37	53	9	1
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	30	24	25	21	27	39	16	18	..	..	..	..
New Brunswick	22	32	26	21	38	29	13	20	35	43	12	10
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario	33	25	31	11	34	30	20	17	38	38	14	10
Manitoba	60	32	7	0	66	34	0	0	50	38	9	4
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta	9	19	35	37	14	16	18	52	31	47	13	9
British Columbia	43	27	28	3	37	33	28	2	36	27	33	5
Yukon	39	45	12	3	11	78	0	11	31	44	6	19
Northwest Territories	54	44	0	2	45	40	15	0	35	62	3	4
Nunavut	30	67	4	0	28	72	0	0	..	..	..	..

.. not available for a specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

2. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

3. Violent offences include offences such as murder, attempted murder, sexual assault, aggravated assault, common assault, robbery, kidnapping and extortion.

4. Property offences include offences such as break and enter, theft, arson, motor theft, fraud, possession of stolen property and mischief.

5. Other 'Criminal Code' offences include offences such as failure to appear and disorderly conduct.

6. Other offences include drug-related offences, *Young Offenders Act/Youth Criminal Justice Act* and other federal offences, and provincial/municipal offences.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 5

Admissions of young persons to probation, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	2004/2005	2005/2006	Percentage change from 2004/2005
	number		percentage
Total¹	17,732	17,396	-2
Newfoundland and Labrador	351	296	-16
Prince Edward Island	..	..	...
Nova Scotia	535	..	...
New Brunswick	455	494	9
Quebec	3,663	3,631	-1
Ontario	7,593	7,604	0
Manitoba	931	936	1
Saskatchewan	1,265	1,215	-4
Alberta	1,778	1,684	-5
British Columbia	1,668	1,520	-9
Yukon	28	16	-43
Northwest Territories	..	126	...
Nunavut	..	..	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The jurisdictions excluded in this table may differ from the jurisdictions excluded in other related tables. As such, totals for the same data element may differ from one table to another.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 6

Releases from probation, by time served, 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Total	Duration by time served				
		1 month or less	>1 to 6 months	>6 months to 1 year	>1 to 2 years	More than 2 years
	number	percentage				
Total¹	13,129	2	15	41	26	16
Newfoundland and Labrador	371	0	7	47	28	17
Prince Edward Island	..	...	...	...	...	...
Nova Scotia	..	...	...	...	...	...
New Brunswick	465	0 ^S	9	52	24	15
Quebec	..	...	...	...	...	...
Ontario	7,816	1	8	45	26	20
Manitoba	874	1	7	15	46	31
Saskatchewan	..	...	...	...	...	...
Alberta	1,779	1	31	45	17	6
British Columbia	1,804	7	35	30	25	4
Yukon	20	5	45	50	0	0
Northwest Territories	..	...	...	...	...	...
Nunavut	..	...	...	...	...	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^S value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 7

Admissions of young persons to the community portion of custody and supervision orders and to deferred custody and supervision orders, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Community portion of a custody sentence ¹			Deferred custody and supervision ²		
	2004/2005	2005/2006	% change from 2004/2005 to 2005/2006	2004/2005	2005/2006	% change from 2004/2005 to 2005/2006
	number	number	percentage	number	number	percentage
Total	3,488	3,176	-9	1,419	1,452	2
Newfoundland and Labrador	121	95	-21	22	21	-5
Prince Edward Island	..	..	...	..	..	...
Nova Scotia	121	122	1	98	92	-6
New Brunswick	175	207	18	107	145	36
Quebec	..	..	...	148	132	-11
Ontario	2,038	1,733	-15	502	538	7
Manitoba	287	321	12	121	153	26
Saskatchewan	214	124	-42	167	159	-5
Alberta	469	504	7	249	202	-19
British Columbia	..	..	...	..	..	...
Yukon	14	15	7	3	5	67
Northwest Territories	24	30	25	2	5	150
Nunavut	25	25	0	..	..	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and British Columbia.

2. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Note: The jurisdictions excluded in this table may differ from the jurisdictions excluded in other related tables. As such, totals for the same data element may differ from one table to another.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey.

Table 8

Characteristics of young persons admitted to correctional services, 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Remand ¹		Sentenced custody ²		Probation ³		Total youth population 2006 (age 12 to 17 years)
	Aboriginal	Female	Aboriginal	Female	Aboriginal	Female	Aboriginal
	percentage						
Total	23	21	31	17	22	23	6
Newfoundland and Labrador	3	17	3	14	3	16	7
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Nova Scotia	7	16	8	8	..	..	4
New Brunswick	9	22	8	22	7	19	4
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ontario	8	20	12	17	6	23	3
Manitoba	79	22	86	13	63	25	23
Saskatchewan	..	..	76	16	66	26	24
Alberta	35	20	38	15	33	22	9
British Columbia	35	24	37	23	31	27	8
Yukon	100	18	100	0	100	19	33
Northwest Territories	85	37	91	30	91	30	65
Nunavut	100	0	100	0	..	..	95

.. not available for a specific reference period

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

2. Total excludes Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

3. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Nunavut.

Note: The jurisdictions excluded in this table may differ from the jurisdictions excluded in other related tables. As such, totals for the same data element may differ from one table to another.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey and the Integrated Correctional Services Survey; Demography Division, Population Estimates, 2006 Census Population.

Table 9

Incarceration rates of young persons per 10,000 youth population, 1996/1997 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Incarceration rate ¹									
	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
	rate									
Total²	18.0	17.2	16.6	15.4	14.4	13.5	12.6	9.0	8.2	7.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	28.1	24.0	22.9	21.4	20.6	22.1	24.2	12.8	12.7	11.3
Prince Edward Island	33.0	23.1	18.8	17.9	14.8	13.9	12.2	6.6	2.5	4.2
Nova Scotia	23.0	19.5	19.5	18.0	18.4	15.9	17.1	10.0	7.4	7.9
New Brunswick	31.1	25.6	23.2	23.5	24.1	21.5	18.0	12.6	12.7	10.9
Quebec	8.8	9.6	9.9	8.7	8.4	7.9	7.5	5.5	4.7	3.9
Ontario ³	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.2	9.7	8.4
Manitoba	32.8	32.5	31.0	30.1	27.9	26.4	25.5	19.7	19.1	20.6
Saskatchewan	37.3	39.6	41.0	36.2	35.6	35.3	33.9	28.0	25.5	23.1
Alberta	22.3	18.9	17.8	16.4	14.4	13.5	11.9	8.3	7.5	7.1
British Columbia	13.0	12.2	11.2	10.2	8.9	7.9	6.7	4.7	4.7	4.1
Yukon	56.2	63.6	50.4	46.8	30.5	24.3	21.2	14.1	14.2	10.8
Northwest Territories ⁴	90.2	99.1	62.3	157.0	134.1	136.0	109.6	59.2	56.2	51.3
Nunavut ⁴	..	..	..	..	35.4	16.8	38.0	29.2	34.1	31.6

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. The incarceration rate is the average daily counts of remand, secure and open custody per 10,000 youth aged 12 to 17 in the population.

2. National figures exclude Ontario and Nunavut for all reference years due to incomplete data.

3. Ontario 2003/2004 incarceration rate includes partial estimates for 12- to 15-year-olds.

4. On April 1, 1999, the Northwest Territories was divided and the territory of Nunavut was created. Therefore, caution is advised when comparing Northwest Territories' data prior to 1999/2000 with any data reported after the creation of Nunavut. In addition, Nunavut did not report data in 1999/2000.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report; Demography Division, Population Estimates.

Table 10

Average daily count of young offenders in sentenced custody, 2003/2004 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Sentenced custody						Secure custody						Open custody					
	Average count			% change of average count			Average count			% change of average count			Average count			% change of average count		
	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2003/2004 to 2004/2005	2004/2005 to 2005/2006	2005/2006 to 2006/2007	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2003/2004 to 2004/2005	2004/2005 to 2005/2006	2005/2006 to 2006/2007	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2003/2004 to 2004/2005	2004/2005 to 2005/2006	2005/2006 to 2006/2007
	number	percentage	percentage	percentage	percentage	percentage	number	percentage	percentage	percentage	percentage	percentage	number	percentage	percentage	percentage	percentage	percentage
Total	1,553	1,306	1,152	-26	-12		822	701	590	-28	-16		732	607	562	-23	-7	
Newfoundland and Labrador	45	44	38	-16	-14		28	18	17	-39	-6		17	26	21	24	-19	
Prince Edward Island	6	3	5	-17	67		3	2	2	-33	0		3	2	2	-33	0	
Nova Scotia	57	38	38	-33	0		12	6	2	-83	-67		45	32	35	-22	9	
New Brunswick	61	59	50	-18	-15		30	32	30	0	-6		31	28	21	-32	-25	
Quebec	232	184	157	-32	-15		159	127	96	-40	-24		73	57	61	-16	7	
Ontario ¹	598	485	420	-30	-13		300	254	213	-29	-16		299	231	207	-31	-10	
Manitoba	104	92	87	-16	-5		43	37	29	-33	-22		61	55	59	-3	7	
Saskatchewan	188	160	135	-28	-16		115	97	82	-29	-15		73	63	52	-29	-17	
Alberta	142	126	119	-16	-6		82	77	77	-6	0		60	49	42	-30	-14	
British Columbia	90	87	77	-14	-11		37	38	30	-19	-21		53	49	46	-13	-6	
Yukon	3	3	2	-33	-33		1	1	0	-100	-100		2	2	2	0	0	
Northwest Territories	22	17	17	-23	0		10	8	9	-10	13		12	9	10	-17	11	
Nunavut	5	8	7	40	-13		2	4	3	50	-25		3	4	4	33	0	

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Includes estimates for 2003/2004 for 12- to 15-year-olds.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

Table 11

Average daily counts of young persons in remand and sentenced custody per 10,000 youth population, by jurisdiction, 2003/2004 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Remand			% change in remand rate		Sentenced custody			% change in sentenced custody rate	
	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2004/ 2005 to 2005/2006	2003/ 2004 to 2005/2006	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2004/ 2005 to 2005/2006	2003/ 2004 to 2005/2006
	rate ¹			percentage		rate ¹			percentage	
Total	3.4	3.6	3.3	-8	0	6.1	5.1	4.5	-12	-27
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.1	2.0	1.5	-23	-29	10.6	10.7	9.5	-11	-10
Prince Edward Island	0.8	0.0	0.8	...	3	4.9	2.5	4.2	69	-15
Nova Scotia	2.5	2.0	2.5	22	-3	7.6	5.1	5.2	1	-32
New Brunswick	2.0	2.2	2.1	-7	2	10.4	10.1	8.7	-15	-17
Quebec	1.4	1.4	1.2	-16	-12	4.2	3.2	2.7	-16	-34
Ontario ²	4.2	4.8	4.2	-13	1	6.1	4.9	4.2	-14	-31
Manitoba	9.0	9.3	10.7	16	19	10.3	9.1	8.6	-5	-17
Saskatchewan	7.8	8.1	8.2	2	5	20.2	17.4	14.9	-14	-26
Alberta	3.1	3.0	2.8	-4	-10	5.2	4.6	4.3	-6	-17
British Columbia	1.9	2.0	1.8	-12	-7	2.8	2.7	2.4	-12	-15
Yukon	3.5	3.5	3.6	1	2	10.6	10.6	7.2	-32	-32
Northwest Territories	9.5	16.4	11.7	-29	23	52.1	39.8	39.6	0	-24
Nunavut	15.9	13.1	13.2	0	-17	13.3	21.0	18.4	-12	39

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 10,000 youth aged 12 to 17. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 2005; preliminary postcensal estimates for 2006.

2. Partial year estimated counts for 12- to 15-year-olds for 2003/2004.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report; Demography Division, Population Estimates.

Table 12

Average daily count of young persons in remand, 2003/2004 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	2003/2004		2004/2005		2005/2006	
	Average count	% of total custody ¹	Average count	% of total custody ¹	Average count	% of total custody ¹
	number	percentage	number	percentage	number	percentage
Total – remand	852	35	924	41	859	42
Newfoundland and Labrador	9	17	8	15	6	13
Prince Edward Island	1	13	0 ^S	0	1	20
Nova Scotia	19	25	15	27	18	31
New Brunswick	12	16	13	18	12	19
Quebec	77	25	82	31	70	31
Ontario	411	41	478	50	422	50
Manitoba	91	46	94	48	109	52
Saskatchewan	73	28	74	32	74	35
Alberta	86	38	81	39	78	40
British Columbia	62	41	66	43	58	43
Yukon	1	25	1	25	1	33
Northwest Territories	4	16	7	29	5	23
Nunavut	6	55	5	38	5	42

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

^S value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Total custody includes secure and open custody, remand and provincial director remand.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

Table 13

Average month-end count of young offenders on probation, 2003/2004 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Probation				
	Average count			Percentage change in average count	
	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2003/2004 to 2005/2006	2004/2005 to 2005/2006
	number	number	number	percentage	percentage
Total¹	27,754	21,068	18,619	-33	-12
Newfoundland and Labrador	672	627	519	-23	-17
Prince Edward Island	134	107	..	...	...
Nova Scotia ²	808	651	609	-25	-6
New Brunswick	654	545	565	-14	4
Quebec	4,014	3,663	3,631	-10	-1
Ontario ³	14,411	9,711	7,860	-45	-19
Manitoba	1,796	1,500	1,521	-15	1
Saskatchewan	1,524	1,381	1,337	-12	-3
Alberta	2,108	1,727	1,577	-25	-9
British Columbia	1,740	1,247	986	-43	-21
Yukon	27	16	14	-48	-13
Northwest Territories	..	..	..	...	...
Nunavut	18	..	77	328	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Northwest Territories and Nunavut for all years.

2. The reduction in probation between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 may be partially attributable to a change in data capture systems.

3. Partial year estimated counts for 12- to 15-year-olds for 2003/2004.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

Table 14

Probation rate per 10,000 youth population, 2001/2002 to 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Probation rate ¹				
	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
			rate		
Total²	114.1	109.0	87.3	74.0	69.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	182.7	184.6	158.9	153.0	130.3
Prince Edward Island	128.4	122.5	109.4	88.9	..
Nova Scotia ³	127.3	116.8	108.1	88.0	83.4
New Brunswick	131.7	140.8	111.3	93.5	97.8
Quebec	99.9	93.7	72.0	64.6	63.1
Ontario ⁴	201.7	99.2	146.0	97.4	78.0
Manitoba	205.3	203.7	177.9	147.7	149.8
Saskatchewan	190.2	191.8	163.7	150.5	148.1
Alberta	101.9	95.5	76.7	62.9	57.2
British Columbia	81.9	75.1	53.7	38.5	30.4
Yukon	158.2	116.7	95.5	56.1	50.6
Northwest Territories	..	..	..	..	..
Nunavut	44.6	..	47.7	..	203.3

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. The probation rate is the averaged month-end counts of probation per 10,000 youth population.

2. Due to the unavailability of data, total probation excludes Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Northwest Territories and Nunavut for all reference years.

3. The reduction in probation between 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 may be partially attributable to a change in data capture systems.

4. Ontario 12- to 15-year-olds are excluded in 2002/2003.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report; Demography Division, Population Estimates.

Table 15

Average month-end count of young persons on the community portion of a custody and supervision order or on a deferred custody and supervision order, 2004/2005 and 2005/2006

Jurisdiction	Community portion of a custody and supervision order ¹			Deferred custody and supervision ²		
	2004/2005	2005/2006	% change from 2004/2005 to 2005/2006	2004/2005	2005/2006	% change from 2004/2005 to 2005/2006
	number	number		number	number	
Total	404	408	1	598	595	-1
Newfoundland and Labrador	13	18	38	2	8	300
Prince Edward Island	4	..	...	21	..	...
Nova Scotia	..	..	...	..	..	...
New Brunswick	20	22	10	40	45	13
Quebec	..	..	...	148	132	-11
Ontario	158	172	9	140	163	16
Manitoba	36	27	-25	41	42	2
Saskatchewan	61	65	7	73	92	26
Alberta	74	70	-5	88	62	-30
British Columbia	40	32	-20	66	51	-23
Yukon	2	2	0	0 ^s	0 ^s	...
Northwest Territories	..	..	...	..	..	...
Nunavut	..	3	...	..	4	...

.. not available for a specific reference period

... not applicable

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

1. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

2. Total excludes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Corrections Key Indicator Report.

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